Torres: No reason for me to resign. PAGE 5
'Saipan Vegas' financial records were conflicting.' PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 186

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Medicaid 'fiscal cliff' averted

» We still need to fight for the FMAP—Muña

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced Saturday that the federal government will allocate $64 million for the CNMI's Medicaid program in fiscal year 2022, averting a looming "fiscal cliff" that would have meant a loss of $55.1 million for the CNMI's Medicaid program come Oct. 1, 2021.

Sablan

Muña

"We have been working with the Biden administration for months on this issue," Sablan said in a press statement last Saturday. "We asked the President to make a commit-

See MEDICAID on Page 4

5 arrivals test positive

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five more individuals have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 263. In Guam, five more

See ARRIVALS on Page 4

2021 Miss Earth Northern Marianas Crystal Fiona Rio, center, shares a photo with 2020 Miss Earth Northern Marianas Maria Lael Terlaje, right of Rio, and 2021 Miss Earth-Air Sue Ann Huevos, left of Rio, at the end of the Miss Earth Northern Marianas Pageant that was held last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom. Also pictured is pageant judge and managing director for the Marianas Visitors Authority Priscilla Iakopo and TanHoldings chief executive officer Jerry Tan.
JOSHUA SANTOS

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eighteen-year-old Northern Marianas College student Crystal Fiona Rio is Miss Earth Northern Marianas, and will be representing the CNMI at this year's Miss Earth competition.

Also awarded last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom was first runner-up and Miss Earth-Air Sue Ann Huevos; second runner-up and Miss Earth-Water Justine Rain Kirby; and third runner-up and Miss Earth-Fire Stephanie Celine Borja.

See RIO on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:58pm, Sept. 19, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	81%
Days since last community transmission	179

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,819
Fully Vaccinated:	28,955
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,817
Fully Vaccinated:	4,396
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	788

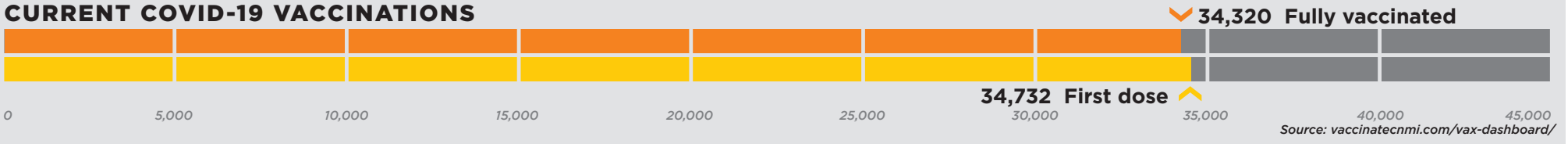
GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	12,974	558[1]	13,532
Recovered	10,642	19	10,657
Active	2,138	558	2,696
Deaths	171	8[2]	179

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	258	5	263
Traced via Travel Screening	221	5	226
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

[1]9/16=171 new cases; 9/17=204 new cases; 9/18=89 new cases; 9/19=94 new cases
[2]9/16=3 deaths; 9/17=5 deaths

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

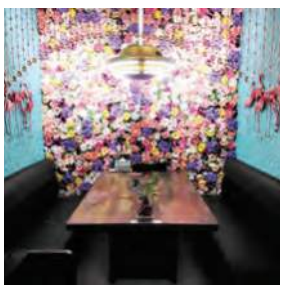


Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

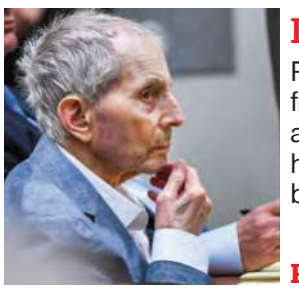
LOCAL
Parents of campers who attended 4-H Marianas' Camp Maga'lahi are greatly satisfied.

PAGE 2



BUSINESS
Party and Beyond along Middle Road in Gualo Rai is now ready to serve the public.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE
Robert Durst's run from the law ended after a jury convicted him of murdering his best friend.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

4-H Camp builds youth leadership and impresses parents

Parents of campers who attended 4-H Marianas' Camp Maga'lahi held on all three islands have expressed great satisfaction with the recently held camp.

The camp was organized in cooperation with Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services Family, Community, and Youth Development program.

Close to 100% of the parents surveyed indicated high satisfaction with the overall experience of the camp.

"This was the most organized and differentiated camp I have ever seen," a parent of a camper said. "It had activities for kids of all ages and abilities. My daughter loved the camp and she's normally not fond of attending these types of activities."

About 96.9% of the parents of campers on Saipan affirmed that the camp counselors had great leadership skills and 92.9% of the parents on Tinian shared the same sentiments.

On Rota, 100% of the parents also shared that they were impressed with the counselors as well.

Rota camp counselors pose with counselors from Saipan and Tinian. NMC

"My children were able to socialize and develop social skills—some of which were lost during the pandemic," one parent said. "I also love that they can learn from the young camp counselors as well and strive to become a counselor one day."

Survey results also showed that 100% of the parents surveyed would recommend the camp to others and would participate again next year.

Camp Maga'lahi recently held its last session of camp with 64 campers from ages 7-14 and 41 counselors aged 15-19. The counselors and campers were able to hone their leadership skills and build their self-confidence.

Edgardo Palma Jr., a camp counselor from Saipan, said he learned a lot about stepping out of his comfort zone. "I learned that I am capable of socializing with others even if it is not for very long, I am proud of myself for having taken a step in the right direction out of my shell," Palma said.

Chloe Yalung, a counselor from Rota, also shared the same sentiments. "I learned that I work best when I have people around me that radiate the same energy I have," Yalung said. "I noticed that I need to improve my motivation and build up my critical thinking skills. I also learned just how much work it takes to be a leader.

In addition to team building activities, the campers and the counselors were able to learn about how to live healthier lifestyles, environmental awareness, as well as facets of CNMI history and culture.

"In this camp I learned that I am a good leader and with hard work I am able to achieve anything," Ryan Nuera, a Tinian camp counselor said. "I also got to know what my strengths and what my weaknesses are."

Camp Maga'lahi was made possible with the help of the American Memorial Park Junior Ranger Program, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Coastal Resources Management, the Coral Reef Initiative, Going Coastal, PSS-Food and Nutrition Service, the Division of Fish & Wildlife, the Indigenous Affairs Office, 500 Sails, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, CHCC-CGC, DLNR, Typhoon Sports, Tinian Municipal Council, Ms. Deborah Fleming, DPS-Boating Safety, DFEMS, and the NMC-CREES Aquaculture & Natural Resources program.

4-H Marianas also acknowledges the assistance of Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and his staff, as well as Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his staff.

For more information about 4-H Marianas programs, visit the NMC-CREES website at crees.marianas.edu or on Facebook and Instagram (@4HMarianas). ***(NMC)***

Campers from House Hurao playing Tug of War against House Taga. NMC

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Actual Balance
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Member FDIC

Firefighters await decision in Civil Service Commission appeal

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The nine firefighters suing the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Commissioner Dennis Mendiola for wrongful termination are holding out hope and awaiting the Civil Service Commission's decision on their appeal following the Superior Court's denial of their requested preliminary injunction for reinstatement.

Camacho

Although the court recently denied their request to be reinstated, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the firefighters will continue to push forward with their Civil Service Commission appeal, which is scheduled for a prehearing conference on Oct. 27.

In a 28-page order, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho informed the nine firefighters that one of the reasons their request for a preliminary injunction was denied was because the court currently has no jurisdiction over the case because a Civil Service Commissioner appeal is pending.

"Given that the appeal at the Civil Service Commission is still pending, and the requested remedy restoring plaintiff's employment is a remedy available through the administrative appeals process, the plaintiffs have yet to exhaust administrative remedies. Until the Civil Service Commission issues its decision, the Superior Court cannot issue a judicial remedy," he said.

Camacho explained that before the firefighters can pursue judicial review of their case, they must first exhaust administrative remedies, meaning they must first complete the Civil Service Commission appeal process before bringing their case to court.

"Here, the plaintiffs are awaiting a scheduled Civil Services Commission hearing, which they requested, and their appeal process is therefore not yet at Step 6. They have not yet received a Civil Services Commission decision, which would mark the completion of Step 7, and at which point they will be deemed to have exhausted administrative remedies, allowing them to bring an action for judicial review before this court. Instead, plaintiffs have skipped to Step 8 while they have not yet completed Step 6, failing to complete the intra-agency appeal process. Thus, plaintiffs' untimely and precipitate claim before this court is in violation of the exhaustion of administrative remedies requirement," he said.

A plaintiff cannot short-circuit the administrative process and must be reasonably diligent in protecting their interests by engaging fully with the administrative process until they have exhausted all administrative remedies available to them, Camacho added.

"Plaintiffs filed an appeal with the Civil Services Commission and that appeal is still in the early stages of the proceedings. The very same remedy sought by the plaintiffs from the Superior Court, namely restoration of their employment, is available in the administrative appeal proceedings. Plaintiffs cannot simply hedge their bets by simultaneously filing for an administrative appeal and bringing a cause of action in Superior Court, racing one legal proceeding against another and waiting to see which institution will give them the outcome they desire first. Plaintiffs' failure to exhaust administrative remedies deprives this court of jurisdiction," he said.

Gas prices up another 10 cents

Oil companies in the CNMI raised their prices yet again over the weekend by another 10 cents per gallon.

According to a gas attendant at Mobil Oil Marianas, Mobil raised its prices early Friday morning.

Mobil took the lead with a 10-cent increase. From $4.75 a gallon, Mobil Oil Marianas raised its Extra fuel price to $ 4.85 a gallon. Mobil also raised its Supreme fuel from $5.20 a gallon to $5.30 while its diesel also went up from $4.91 a gallon to $5.06.

Shell Marianas raised its prices early the following morning, Saturday.

According to a 28-year-old motorist, he no longer notices when gas prices go up and down.

"I don't really notice anymore because prices go up like every month. It's not like we can just not put gas. They're capitalizing on something that's a necessity," he said.

His female companion echoed the sentiment, stating that it's just something that everyone is forced to deal with. "At this point, I feel like I should start biking. I work a part-time job, sometimes I have to decide whether to spend my last $5 bill on gas or on food for the day. Most of the time I choose gas because I need to apply for jobs. It's unfair. There is no choice," she said. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

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PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

Conference panel adopts $$144M budget bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) had expected, the bicameral conference committee's meeting Friday afternoon did not take long to work out a mutually acceptable budget bill for the CNMI government's operations in fiscal year 2022, paving the way for the Legislature to approve the $144.84-million spending plan.

All six members of the conference committee cheered and shook hands after completing the meeting in only two hours and 30 minutes. Everyone voted for adoption of the budget legislation, House Bill 22-74 in the form of HD3, SD1, CCS1.

Manglona, who was the House of Representatives chairperson on the conference committee, presided over the meeting. Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) was the Senate's chairperson on the committee. The other House members were Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) and Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), with Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) as alternative member. The Senate members were Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) and Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), with Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) as alternate member.

The full Senate and House are expected to adopt the conference committee's report and subsequently pass the bill this week before submitting it to the table of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his signature before the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2021. Without a budget for the new fiscal year, the CNMI government will be forced to have a partial shutdown.

The conference committee's meeting was triggered after the House rejected the Senate version of the spending plan for fiscal year 2022, one reason being the $2.6 million that the Senate had taken from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s subsidy. The House wanted to know where those funds would go, or how can they put some money back into CHCC.

Last year, the conference committee's meeting lasted over two days.

In an interview shortly after Friday's meeting, Manglona said he is happy that the meeting was done quickly and smoothly as they had hoped.

Manglona said the Senate was very considerate of the House's counterproposal. He said the compromise was for the most part to take some of what the Senate had reallocated from CHCC and give it back to CHCC.

"Other allocations that were made were kept. And so that was the compromise. We were happy about it," Manglona said.

He said they're happy as they were able to get additional funds for CHCC.

Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) exchange pleasantries with other members of the bicameral conference committee after their quick and smooth meeting Friday. Also in the photo, seated, is Senate legal counsel Joe Bermudes.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Torres announces increase in CNMI scholarship awards

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the CNMI Scholarship Office announced the reinstatement of all suspended programs and an increase in scholarship award amounts effective fall 2021.

The CNMI Scholarship Board met last Wednesday and voted on the increase in scholarship awards, which will be distributed in October. The board also voted to reinstate suspended programs, which allowed a maximum award of $2,100 per semester for traditional students at Northern Marianas College, other colleges, and universities and $1,350 per semester for Northern Marianas Technical Institute students. Previously, the maximum award for students was $400 per semester.

"Our scholarship program is one of the biggest priorities of our administration because we place an emphasis on the value of our students at NMC, NMTI, and other colleges and universities around the country when they finally receive their degree or certification. Many of them have returned home to work in our administration, in our private sector, and in the nonprofit sector giving back to our community. Every dollar we prioritize for our scholarships go a long way. We thank our students and their parents for their patience, and we will continue to do our part to support them in their dreams and aspirations for a successful career in the future," said Torres. ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MEDICAID

From Page 1

ment to Medicaid for the insular areas in his 2022 budget proposal; and he did. I am very grateful to his support and to my former House colleague, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, for this week's decision to permanently increase funding."

Next up for the CNMI is to push for a longer-term solution for the CNMI and other U.S. territories' Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña yesterday.

The FMAP determines the percentage of Medicaid expenses that the federal government will reimburse a U.S. state or territory for, with the remainder being paid for by a state or U.S. territory's local government.

Muña wrote last week an opinion piece for Washington, D.C.-based publication *The Hill*. In it, she cited that FMAP is capped at 55% by law for U.S. territories and that legislation to increase these caps frequently expires. Muña had pointed out that no such federal Medicaid percentage cap exists for all 50 states and Washington, D.C., and called for a permanent solution to the issue.

When asked for thoughts and comments regarding Sablan's announcement, Muña Sunday said that FMAP still needs to be addressed, as CHCC needs proper reimbursement from the federal government to support its expanded services.

"The FMAP still needs to be addressed. Since CHCC expanded services, we're generating close to $50 million in Medicaid expenses. Without addressing the FMAP, we will only be reimbursed about $27 million—that's about $13 million less than what would have been received if the FMAP was addressed, [and] that still means we need to analyze how we can continue the expanded services without appropriate reimbursement," said Muña.

She pointed out that the number of CNMI residents struggling to pay their medical bills is on the rise. With CHCC being a safety net provider—which means it is not allowed to deny anyone medical services—a lack of proper reimbursement toward the CNMI's Medicaid program creates further challenges and complications for CHCC.

"Every year, we're seeing an increase in CNMI residents struggling to pay for their health care. As a safety net provider, we can't deny services to these individuals, and Medicaid was keeping the lights on at the hospital and bringing these much-needed services to them. The loss of $13 million is a significant challenge for the CHCC and the Medicaid program. ...FMAP allows us to maintain services. We still need to fight for the FMAP," Muña added.

The CNMI got $62.3 million for Medicaid in fiscal year 2021. Without the federal government's intervention, that would have dropped to $7.2 million in fiscal year 2022.

U.S. Public Law 116-9 gave the Biden administration the basis for its decision last week to apply a statutory inflation factor to the current amount and award the Marianas with $64 million beginning Oct. 1 and to use $64 million as the basis for calculating future year increases.

RIO

From Page 1

The 2021 Miss Earth Northern Marianas beauty pageant—which featured competitions in native costumes, swimsuits, and evening gowns, two question-and-answer portions, and a video tribute for the late 2020 Miss Earth Ecotourism Arianne Cabrera— was organized by Exquisite Productions.

In the final question-and-answer portion of the pageant, Rio was asked, "Among the deserving finalists tonight, why should the judges select you as the 2021 Miss Earth Northern Marianas?" Rio responded, saying that as Miss Earth she will focus on the "small things that make a bigger impact."

"All of the finalists right now all deserve the crown in some way, and I believe that I deserve the crown because I have so much to give. I am focusing on the smaller things that make a bigger impact. I want to focus on the smaller groups [and] the smaller communities before we move on to the bigger communities to make sure that the impact shows within our environment and our community," said Rio.

Before last Saturday's winners were awarded, a tribute video to 2020 Miss Earth Northern Marianas Maria Lael Terlaje was played, and afterward Terlaje took her "Farewell Walk." After being crowned as 2021 Miss Earth Northern Marianas, Rio took a "Victory Walk."

Unlike last year's event, which was held virtually and had no live audience, this year's pageant was held live, with some videos such as slideshows and a video tribute for Cabrera

ARRIVALS

From Page 1

persons died of COVID-19-related complications, bringing to 179 the island's death toll from COVID-19.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. reported Sunday that the five individuals were identified by travel screening and confirmed positive through fifth-day testing on Sept. 17 and 18, and through arrival testing on Sept. 18. The individuals have been quarantined and are being monitored, and CHCC said its Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for those who were in closest contact with the five individuals. CHCC also reported that there are currently no active hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

In Guam, its Joint Information Center reported over the weekend the island's five most recent COVID-19-related deaths. The JIC also reported that there are currently 79 individuals hospitalized due to COVID-19. Of the 79, 41 are unvaccinated, 12 have unknown vaccination status, and one is ineligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Guam's 175th COVID-19-related death was a partially vaccinated 63-year-old female with underlying health concerns. She was pronounced dead on arrival in the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam on Sept.13.

The 176th COVID-19-related death was a 59-year-old male with no known vaccination status and with underlying health concerns. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Sept. 15, and was pronounced dead on arrival at the USNH on Sept. 15.

The 177th COVID-19-related death was an unvaccinated 71-year-old female with no known underlying health concerns. She was a known positive case, and was pronounced dead at the Guam Regional Medical City on Sept. 16.

The 178th COVID-19-related death was an unvaccinated 65-year-old male with underlying health concerns. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Sept. 17, and was pronounced dead on arrival at GRMC that same day.

The 179th COVID-19-related death was an unvaccinated 58-year-old female with underlying health concerns. She tested positive for COVID-19 on Sept. 17, and was pronounced dead on arrival at GRMC that day.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero on Friday offered her condolences to the five, and said that the many men and women on Guam who lost their lives to COVID-19 are "far more than stats."

"The men and women who we keep in our thoughts and prayers tonight are far more than stats—they embody pleasant memories, sources of light, wisdom and love for families whose hearts are now in a place of torment. Lives may continue to be lost at disturbing rates, with each loss regrettably offering more cautionary tales about a very real, very dangerous virus that can be controlled when we heed the warning signs," she said.

Last Thursday, Guam also recorded three additional COVID-related fatalities.

The 172nd COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Sept. 15, 2021. The patient was a 69-year-old male, unvaccinated, with underlying health conditions.

The 173rd COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival also at GMH. The patient was a 74-year-old male, unvaccinated, with unknown comorbidities.

The 174th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at GMH. The patient was a 90-year-old female with unknown comorbidities and unknown vaccination status.

"These unsettling times continue to impact our lives, and more of us are grieving tonight," said Leon Guerrero. "[We] join the island in prayer, for safe passage through the difficulty before us all, and for the strength and the resolve to remain ever vigilant in our efforts to protect everyone we can."

Torres: No reason for me to resign

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that he absolutely is not going to resign, despite unfavorable testimony in the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee hearing that is looking into his expenditures of public funds and travels.

"There's no reason for me to resign," said Torres when asked during his regular radio news briefing if he ever thinks of resigning from office in the wake of the JGO investigation where committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta had asked Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios if he believes there is sufficient reason and justification to call for the immediate resignation of Torres or move for his impeachment. Palacios had replied that doing so is a legislative prerogative. Palacios appeared before the JGO Committee last Wednesday in response to a subpoena.

When asked about Palacios' testimony, the governor said Palacios made the comments already "so he is just going to move forward on what he needs to do."

As to the question whether Palacios gave a truthful testimony, Torres didn't give a direct response. "I don't want to be the one to say whether it's accurate or not," the governor said.

On whether he plans to testify by himself or with counsel before the committee, Torres said they will deal with it when they get that subpoena. He said the committee had already voted to issue him a subpoena so he will just wait for that.

"I've told this in the beginning, I said, 'Hey, call me in so we can hash this out and answer these questions, the concerns that you have," the governor said.

He said it's been several months already and the JGO never did call him. "They're choosing to go this route. They brought in officers, they brought in other people and yet they haven't called me," Torres said.

This means, Torres said, that the JGO Committee already has a goal and agenda before all this process.

The House is controlled by the Democrats. Torres is the titular head of the NMI Republican Party.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

RFP21 – RED005

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 25, 2021

"MANAGAHA ISLAND MASTER CONCESSION OPERATOR"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms interested in being the Exclusive Master Concession Operator for service and activities on or relating to Managaha Island.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available online at www.dpl.gov.mp. Interested proposers may request an RFP Packet by email referenced **"RFP21-RED005 MANAGAHA CONCESSION".**

A pre-proposal tour of the island for all interested parties will be held on Managaha Island on **October 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** Additional site visits may be requested through DPL with a minimal fee. Interested parties must arrange their own transportation to and from the island.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the premises and the contents of the RFP Packet must be received, **no later than 4:00 pm on October 8, 2021ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Mr. Sixto K. Igisomar, Secretary, DPL at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: sixto.igisomar@dpl.gov.mp or dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Sealed proposals must be marked **"RFP21-RED005 MANAGAHA CONCESSION"**. One (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the DPL at its address above **no later than 4:00pm ChST, on October 25, 2021. A non-refundable Administrative Processing Fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500.00)** is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: Department of Public Lands.

By submitting a proposal, the interested firm agrees to enter into a concession agreement. DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All costs associated with preparing a proposal are entirely the responsibility of proposers. All proposals shall become the sole property of DPL.

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR, DPL Secretary

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
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CORRECTED

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public landis described as Tract 21662 containing an area of approximately 44,350 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency.The lists of officers for Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency are Hitoshi Nakauchi,President, Nonuhiko Ikemoto, Secretary/Treasurer and Nick Nishikawa, as General Manager.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Nick Nishikawa.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operating a Hotel Resort Complex.

The term of the public land lease agreement is 40 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the JoetenDandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in ***Garapan, Saipan***.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, ***September 25, 2021*** at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN INTENSION PARA U MA'ATKILAI TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñihapara u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi halum henerât pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Tract 21662 ni konsisisti kåsi 44,350 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigigi hålum Garapan, iya Saipan. I kopian pâttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan i website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee sa i Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency. I listan ufisiåt siha para i Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency si Hitoshi Nakauchi, Presidenti, Nonuhiko Ikemoto, Sekritâriu/Tresurâru yan si Nick Nishikawa, komu Henerât Maniya.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginin manegosiuni as Siñot Nick Nishikawa.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha' na rason nu i kinalamtin Hotel Resort Complex.

I tema nu i maproponina kontrâtan atkilon sa kuarenta (40) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' såkkan gi durântin teman kontrâtan i` atkilon mapega gi putsientunu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedât yan i aplikao na putsientu nu i Business Gross Receipts gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntrâtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan,Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iyaSongsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi ***Garapan, iya Saipan.***

vii. I Sekritârian Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguinprinoponi siha ginin i manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di ***September 25, 2021*** gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONG REEL MÁNGEMÁNGIL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowowa rongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap loll Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóókka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálo bwe Tract 21662 ebwe bwáábwe 44,350 reel square meters, elapelóng áreeghus, iye e lo Arabwal, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u Mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Pommwol school atkkilóón nge Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency. List-al officers ngáli Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency nge Hitoshi Nakauchi, President, Nonuhiko Ikemoto, Sekkretóóriyo/Treasurer me Nick Nishikawa, bwe General Manager.

iii. Pommwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. Nick Nishikawa.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl Hotel Resort Complex.

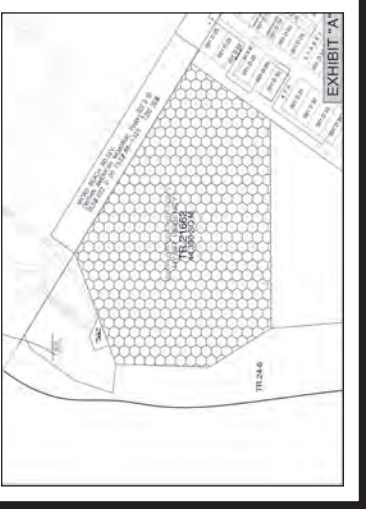
Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóónol Faluweer Toulap nge fáaigh ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráághatol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage of Business gross Receipts" loll mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiwelingáli atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me ***Garapan, Seipél.***

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommwiye re siiweli sángi schóókka re mwuschel wool ngáre mmwalil ***September 25, 2021*** me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáreTchiliyól.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-21-032

SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) FOR POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for a turn-key design and implementation (Design, Supply and Installation) of SCADA system at its Primary Power Plant (Power Plant No.1), Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The award of this project is under the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-032, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 13, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 22, 2021** to manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-036

Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $25.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-036, Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 15, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 23, 2021** to Manny Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John C. Mafnas, Contracts Officer at john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Soroptimist NMI to mark 9th charter anniversary

Soroptimist International of the Northern Marianas is inviting the community to join the Soroptimist members as they celebrate women "Dancing in the Rain" and award the 2021 "Live Your Dream" winner on Oct. 16, 2021, 6pm, at the Marianas Lighthouse Restaurant. They are also celebrating their ninth charter celebration and the 100th anniversary of the Soroptimist Organization worldwide.

There will be food, refreshments, a guest speaker, and a silent auction. It will be a great night of celebrating the future of women in the CNMI. Tickets are $75 and can be purchased at Natural Nail Spa or from any of the Soroptimist members.

The Live Your Dream Awards provide monetary assistance to women who are attending college or vocational training, are the primary source of financial support for their families, and have a dream to continually better their lives through education. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption on Middle Road and in Gualo Rai

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021, from 7:30am to 4:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of Middle Road north of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and south of Gualo Rai road.

RNV Construction, CUC's contractor for the W-6 Sewer Lift Station elimination project, will be diverting the 16-inch waterline away from the installation of the new 10-inch gravity sewer line. Water services to affected areas will resume soon after.

In addition, CUC would like to inform the public that construction activities will continue to take place between the Chalan Kiya intersection and the intersection of Chalan Pale Arnold and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road. Given the amount of construction activity that is expected to take place in the area, motorists are advised to slow down near the project site and heed traffic control direction and devices. Proceed with caution when driving near and through the construction zone. Pedestrians are also asked to avoid walking through the project area and to find an alternative route.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation). ***(PR)***

Power service interruption Tuesday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Sept. 21, from 8:30am to 11:30am for the buildings along the span of road near the Koblerville Gym and past Saipan Cares for Animals' current location so that CUC linemen can relocate a concrete power pole due to encroachment.

For more information, call the CUC hotline at 236-4333 or monitor its Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE 9/14/2021	CLOSING DATE 9/28/2021
JVA#21-004:	ACCOUNTANT IV (SAIPAN)		
JVA#21-005:	TOUR GUIDE CERTIFICATION MANAGER (SAIPAN)		
JVA#21-006:	TRADES TECHNICIAN I (TINIAN) (3 POSITIONS)		
JVA #	**VACANT POSITION**	**OPENING DATE 9/15/2021**	**CLOSING DATE 9/29/2021**
JVA#21-007:	GRAPHIC ARTIST (SAIPAN)		

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM/ANNOUNCEMENTS/ FOR MORE DETAILS.

D&Q International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

MARKETING & PROMOTION COORDINATOR

- The successful candidate will report to the sales manager and provide marketing & promotional support services for our sales and merchandising teams in Saipan, Micronesia and Pacific islands.
- High school graduate required, ideally with further studies in marketing or business.
- Advanced computer skills required. Proficient in Microsoft Office suite and Social Media management.
- Will need to provide computerized reports and market surveys in a timely manner.
- Must be reliable, honest, self-starter with excellent organizational skills. Must be able to work independently and under pressure.
- Must be fluent in English.
- Must have own reliable transport. Will be reimbursed for use.
- At times may need to be available to work on weekends or after hours.

Interested applicants may complete an application or submit a resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. Building, Lower Base, no later than **September 24th, 2021. Applications may also be sent to: a.inabo@dandq-international.com**

The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q Co. Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

JONATHAN J. RABAULIMAN
CHRB 5728, SAIPAN, MP 96950
670-783-3994

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Jonathan John Rabauliman
Petitioner

FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0165-FCD

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for hearing on September 27, 2021 at 9:00a.m. in Courtroom Superior Court, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 17th day of May, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Defense claims Saipan Vegas' financial records were conflicting

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense in the lawsuit filed by two e-gaming companies against the CNMI Department of Finance claims that the financial records provided to the court by Saipan Vegas, one of the plaintiffs, conflicted with records previously provided to DOF as part of the licensing process.

According to assistant attorney general Keisha Blaise, who represents DOF in the matter, the profit and loss statements for 2018 and 2019 provided for MP Holdings, LLC —which does business as Saipan Vegas—directly conflicts with financial records that Saipan Vegas submitted to the DOF Enforcement and Regulatory Branch as part of the electronic gaming licensing process.

"Specifically, the revenues, expenses, and net profits shown in records submitted to the Enforcement and Regulatory Branch are entirely different than those provided by Saipan Vegas in the profit and loss statements submitted to the court. These documents show such wide discrepancies in plaintiffs' reports that the accuracy and veracity of the profit and loss statements should called into question, especially considering plaintiffs' lack of supporting documentation," she said.

Because of the conflicting records, Blaise argues that Saipan Vegas, and Mariana Entertainment, LLC—which does business as Club 88— should not be granted their requested preliminary injunction.

"Plaintiff's submission should thus be deemed unreliable at best, and certainly insufficient to establish irreparable harm. As a result, the court should deny plaintiffs their requested preliminary relief," Blaise stated.

Aside from the conflicting financial records, Blaise also said the plaintiffs have not provided specific information or documentation to support the position that they would suffer irreparable harm in the absence of a preliminary injunction. "Plaintiffs seeking preliminary relief are required to demonstrate, not merely speculate that irreparable injury is likely in the absence of an injunction," she said.

Blaise said the court ordered plaintiffs to produce financial records to support their claim by Aug. 25 but plaintiffs did not do so until Aug. 26. However, the filed records included a set of schedules they allegedly claimed to be actual profits and losses for MP Holdings, LLC and Mariana Entertainment, LLC for 2018 through the first half of 2021, and a projection for the second half of 2021.

In addition, Blaise claims plaintiffs' supporting documentation only evidences licensing fees paid from August 2020 through July 2021, a fraction of the time covered plaintiffs claim that their businesses will not survive the fee increase in question based on these records.

"However, the financial records submitted by plaintiffs are not reliable and are insufficient to support this claim. The profit and loss statements are unaudited and unsupported by financial records and therefore should be afforded little evidentiary weight. Plaintiffs have put 2018 through 2021 into question and provided profit and loss statements for those years, yet the supporting documentation submitted by plaintiffs only pertains to licensing fees paid for portions of 2020 and 2021. Critically, plaintiffs did not provide supporting documentation necessary for calculating or substantiating the revenues, expenses, taxes, fees, or net profits shown on the profit and loss statements submitted to the court," the defense stated.

'Each public school has at least one student counselor'

The Public School System's Mental Health Team currently has 20 staff members, which means that roughly all positions within the team are filled, according to Walter Mendez, project manager for the team.

In a guest appearance on KKMP radio last Thursday, Mendez said the CNMI's public schools each have at least one student counselor and that some schools are looking into bringing in one more counselor for students.

On the topic of mental health awareness, community outreaches, and the many currently ongoing mental health programs in the CNMI, Mendez said the CNMI is in a "transformation period" where mental health, mental illness, and other such topics are starting to be more widely accepted and understood.

"We are in a transformation period, where we as a people and as a community are learning what mental health is, and what mental health is not. ...As we start to build awareness and [reach out] to the community and everybody gets to understand what mental health is, it's going to be more commonly known amongst our people," he said.

Mendez would like to see pre-conceived notions and stigma on mental health and mental illness replaced with a willingness to understand one's situations and a willingness to seek help when needed.

"We don't look at [mental illness] as 'Somebody's crazy.' That's not what it's about. It's about finding that balance between the struggles and the happy times, and figuring out [if you] can avail of your resources, can you find out if you need help, and [knowing if] you're willing to go get help, which is a challenge in and of itself," he added.

Alongside Mendez were representatives of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and CHCC's Community Guidance Center. ***(Joshua Santos)***

Senate passes bill that authorizes DPL to issue encroachment permits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed last Tuesday a bill that authorizes the Department of Public Lands to issue licenses and use permits and charge fees for the use of the public lands located within the 150 feet of the high water mark.

Eight senators present voted "yes" to pass House Bill 22-31, HS1. The bill now goes to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for action.

The House of Representatives passed the bill last Sept. 1. Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) is the author of the legislation.

High water mark refers to the highest water stand reached by the lake or river, or the highest level reached by the sea at high tide.

House Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan) said this bill proposes to authorize DPL to issue encroachment permits. Babauta said the changes that are proposed in this legislation will allow DPL to charge for encroachment of existing structures only.

The bill proposed that DPL may not transfer an interest, and may prohibit the erection of any permanent structure, in public lands located within 150 feet of the high water mark of a sandy beach except that:

- DPL may authorize the construction of facilities for public purposes.
- DPL may grant a non-exclusive license or permit provided the use does not interfere with the public's access to the property.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tel. No. (670) 234-6866/7447 | Fax: (670) 234-9021

Public Hearing Notice

Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Plan
Monday, September 20, 2021

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, is seeking public input on the HAF Plan to implement the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) created by the American Rescue Plan Act. NMHC anticipates to submit the plan to Treasury by September 30, 2021.

The HAF Plan is now available for review at www.nmhcgov.net.

The NMHC will hold a virtual hearing on the HAF Plan on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. See below for additional information about the public hearing. To ensure all interested persons are able to offer comments in the time allotted for the public hearing, each individual must limit comments to no more than two minutes. NMHC is also accepting written comments on the HAF Plan. Written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 2021. Written comments can be submitted directly to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation located in Garapan, Saipan, and also to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices.

Notice of Public Hearing on HAF Draft Implementation Framework:

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Access Information: See Zoom Conferencing details on www.nmhcgov.net; Facebook: Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Agenda:
- Brief presentation on the HAF Plan
- Public comments

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
p.o. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *New Cafeteria Building, next to Building D, Marianas High School, Bwaay Lane, Susupe, Saipan*, on *Friday, September 24, 2021*, at *5:00 p.m.*, on the application of *Marshall Holdings CNMI LLC*, Applicant for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *$6.447 million for solar energy production, inter-island ocean transport, import/export and eco-tourism.* All pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further Information.*** For further information, please contact CEDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its office at the CEDA Building, Beach Road, Oleai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

As infections spike, Europeans are set to block US travelers again

Added to the growing list of damage the anti-vaccination/anti-mask crowd is doing to America is the recommendation of renewed travel bans in the European Union against U.S. visitors, due to spiking coronavirus cases here. Congratulations to all those anti-science "patriots" out there for turning America into a global leper.

Thankfully, the European Union's recommendation to its 27 member nations will primarily affect Americans who lack proof of vaccination. Depending on the decisions of individual member nations, Americans with coronavirus vaccination cards will likely still be able to travel through most of Europe, though testing and quarantine requirements might still apply.

The mere fact Americans' failure to contain the coronavirus has put it back on a watchlist of suspect nations—along with countries such as Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia—cannot be viewed as anything other than a national embarrassment.

The non-binding recommendation to EU members is a reversal of a decision in June to lift restrictions on American travelers, based on hopeful signs back then that the pandemic was under control because of rising vaccination numbers and falling infection rates.

U.S. infections, hospitalizations and deaths have all spiked since late June. The delta variant is more aggressive than earlier forms of the coronavirus, but the resurgence was by no means inevitable. It's been driven by rejection of vaccination and mask rules by significant swaths of America.

Part of the problem is in Black urban enclaves, where historical distrust of government and the medical establishment runs deep, but at least Black leaders are trying to counter it. The far higher numbers of people resisting pandemic safety in red state regions, including much of rural Missouri, are actually being fueled by Republican politicians pandering to the misinformed.

Governors in states like Texas and Florida are even assertively preventing school mask orders and vaccination requirements for private sector employees—this as their states rack up record new infection rates, hospital bed shortages and fatalities. It may be good politics, but it's morally indefensible.

No wonder Europe is suddenly reconsidering its view that highly valued U.S. tourism dollars are worth the risk of allowing unfettered American entry.

Last month's EU announcement recommends "temporary restrictions on non-essential travel" to Americans and citizens of a handful of other countries. Member nations remain free to decide for themselves whether to institute such restrictions and, if so, how stringent they should be and whether they will make exceptions for travelers who can who show proof of vaccination.

This means traveling Americans will almost certainly face a mish-mash of different restrictions in different European countries as the continent tries to figure out how to handle a superpower that can't handle the coronavirus. Though many supporters of former President Donald Trump reject the vaccines that (to his credit) he delivered, they still like to claim the "Make America Great Again" mantra. In fact, they're making America humiliated.

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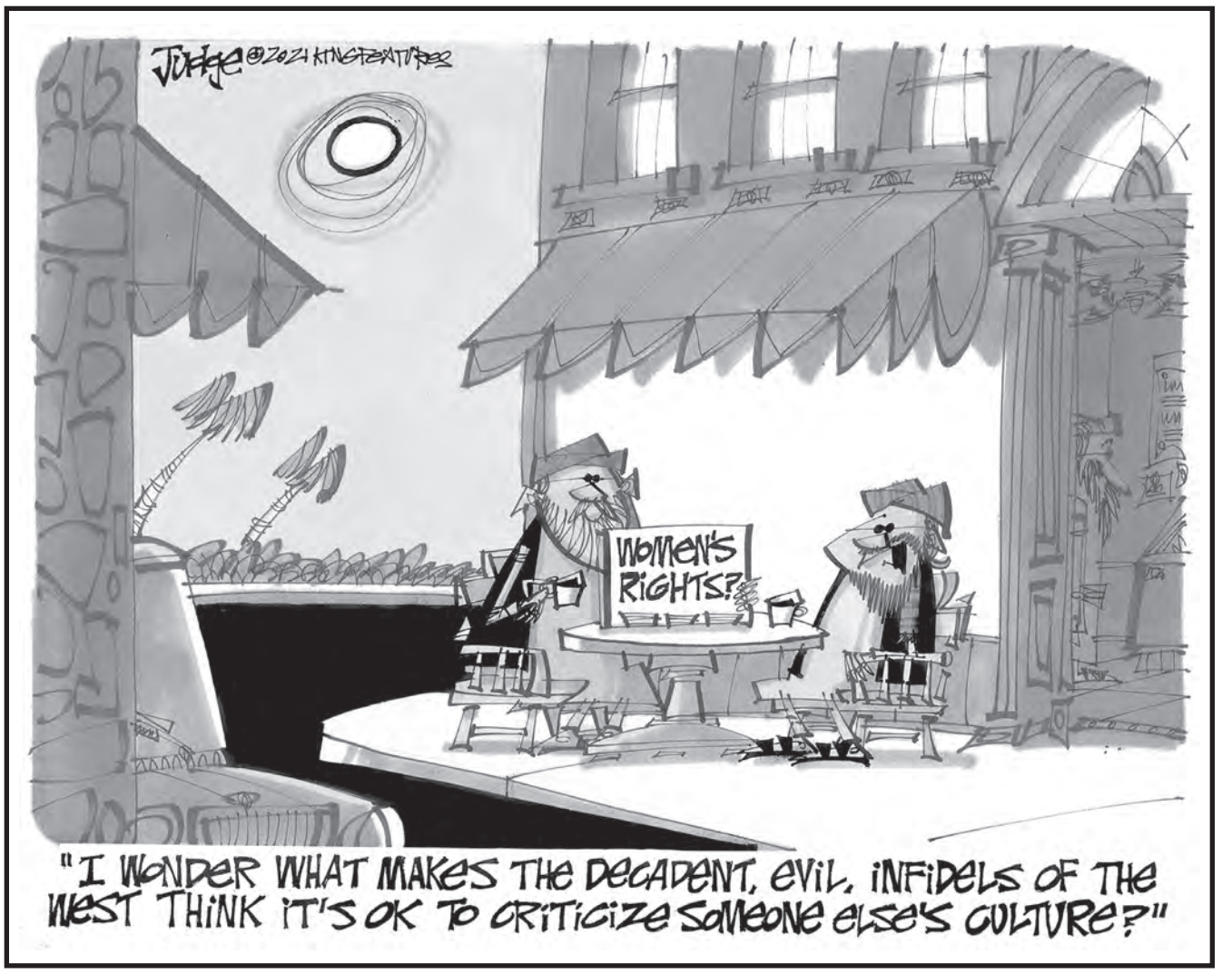
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WOMEN'S RIGHTS?
"I WONDER WHAT MAKES THE DECADENT, EVIL, INFIDELS OF THE WEST THINK IT'S OK TO CRITICIZE SOMEONE ELSE'S CULTURE?"

The explanation for seemingly irrational COVID behavior

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include* Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.

Many reactions to COVID-19 can be explained by one simple concept: intertemporal substitution. Its awkward name notwithstanding, the idea helps to make sense of many behaviors that otherwise might appear irrational.

At the most basic level, intertemporal substitution means shifting an action or event to a more appropriate or advantageous time. A classic example from economics is that people will shop more when there are sales.

Now consider a more complex pandemic example. Before the vaccines came along, it made great sense to enforce masking norms. If infections could be shifted into the future, an eventually vaccinated citizenry would be much better protected.

There is a less obvious corollary: Those same mask norms make less sense when large numbers of people are vaccinated. Masking still will push infections further into the future, but if the vaccines become marginally less effective over time, as some data suggest, people may be slightly worse off later on (they'll also be a bit older). The upshot is that the case for masking is less strong, even if you still think it is a good idea overall.

Still, many people prefer to abide by fixed rules and principles. Once they learn them and lecture others about them, they are unlikely to change their minds. "Masking is good!" is a simple precept. "Exactly how good masking is depends on how much safer the near future will be!" is not. Yet the latter statement is how the economist is trained to think.

Another approach is to keep masking for a very long time — until there are much better treatments once again, the virus has evolved to become less dangerous, or some other set of safety-improving changes has set in. But what if there is no proverbial cavalry coming over the hill? People will instead need to institute and adapt to whatever long-term living conditions they prefer, along with the concomitant risks. Denmark, one of the better governed and better-vaccinated nations during the pandemic, has decided exactly that and has announced a return to normalcy.

According to intertemporal substitution, lockdowns make the most sense right before major safety improvements, such as vaccines or extra hospital capacity. In practice, however, that is precisely when an impatient citizenry might demand an end to them.

Intertemporal substitution also helps explain why some people were relatively happy during the pandemic and others weren't. If you didn't go to the theater for two years, are you willing or able to go twice as much for two years? If you do not have that kind of flexibility, you probably suffered more than average.

Citizens take intertemporal substitution into account more than public health authorities like to admit. Say it has been a few weeks since your third dose (which hasn't diminished in potency yet), and you feel relatively protected against the delta variant. But you worry that more dangerous variants are coming next year. You might go out and take some "disproportionate" risks. For you, it's probably not going to be much safer anytime soon, and you don't wish to spend the rest of your life in a closet. Behavior that might appear foolhardy isn't, necessarily.

This way of thinking goes against the approach of public health authorities, who tend to emphasize clear-cut restrictions for broad classes of people (fully vaccinated, not vaccinated, immunocompromised, etc.). But the reality is that people will take their pleasures when they can, especially if they expect the risk of those pleasures to be rising.

Some of the consequences of intertemporal substitution are a bit ghastly, and you won't find many people willing to even talk about them.

For example: Say you are immunocompromised, and you either can't or won't get vaccinated. You might be justly mad about all the unvaccinated knuckleheads running around, getting COVID, and possibly infecting you. At the same time, you wish to minimize your required degree of intertemporal substitution.

So if you are (perhaps correctly) afraid to go out very much, you are better off if those same knuckleheads acquire natural immunity more quickly. Yes, it would be better if they got vaccinated. But barring that, a quick pandemic may be easier for you to manage than a long, drawn-out pandemic, which would require heroic amounts of intertemporal substitution.

Speaking of which: As I write this I am in Northern Ireland, and it is early in the morning, when the shops and museums are closed. Did I mention it is raining?

28 years of disability rights in the CNMI

By GREGORY BORJA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sept. 16, 2021, marked the 28th anniversary of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., better known in the community as NMPASI.

Every state and territory within the United States operates a system that is dedicated to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities who may face discrimination in employment, access to government services, and access to the community as a result of their disability. In 1993, NMPASI was established as a private, non-profit disability rights law organization for Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prior to the creation of NMPASI, Protection & Advocacy, or P&A, services were offered through Catholic Social Services and Karidat Social Services. These services were put in place to provide legal services to distinct populations of people with disabilities. The first P&A program to enter the CNMI back in 1984 was the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities program, which provided rights protections for people who were born with a disability or acquired a disability prior to age 22.

Since the establishment of NMPASI in 1993, services for people with disabilities have grown. The CNMI P&A programs have expanded to eight federally funded programs that help people with varying types of disabilities. Eligibility for these programs differs based on an individual's type of disability and the nature of the alleged rights violation they have experienced.

Since 2006, NMPASI has provided services to over 3,000 people with disabilities who encountered disability discrimination in the areas of architectural access, abuse, education, employment, government benefits and services, health care, housing, insurance, neglect, program access, seclusion and restraint, transportation, and voting.

As we look forward to the years ahead, we would like to inform our community that NMPASI is here to help. Whether through providing Information and referral on disability-related issues, direct client representation or legal advice, or facilitating trainings, NMPASI is your protection and advocacy system.

Gregory Borja is program manager at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

We shouldn't return to welfare as we knew it

By LESLIE FORD
The Heritage Foundation

Leslie Ford is a Visiting Fellow in Domestic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., has all eyes on him. Again. This time it's because he's questioning his party's line on whether work matters for people receiving welfare.

He recently revealed his reservations with the Biden tax credit, which was transformed into unconditional cash grants: "There's no work requirements whatsoever. There's no education requirements whatsoever for better skill sets. Don't you think, if we're going to help the children, that the people should make some effort?"

Manchin is right to be concerned with the current legislation. Work matters, especially for the most vulnerable among us.

Twenty-five years ago, both Democrats and Republicans agreed with him. In 1996, there was broad agreement that our national welfare system held people in poverty, for the simple reason that it discouraged work. Even then-Sen. Joe Biden said, "Work should be the premise of our welfare system."

The reality of workless benefits was striking. Before 1996, after decades of no-strings-attached payments, nearly 9 in 10 families on welfare were jobless. Most were stuck in long-term poverty, dependent on meager benefits for over 8 years. About 90% of these families were led by a single mother, and one in seven children survived on the benefits.

Congress tackled this problem, with the help of then-President Bill Clinton, who promised to "end welfare as we know it." Congress came together to pass one of the most important and successful social reforms in American history: bipartisan welfare reform.

The resulting welfare reform limited recipients to five years of support, while requiring states to engage them in work between 20 and 30 hours a week, depending on the age of the kids.

Some asserted that poverty would increase, yet the opposite happened. Dependency declined for the first time in a half century. Employment rose among never married mothers who didn't graduate high school. Single mothers who worked rose from 51 percent in 1992 to 76 percent within eight years.

The most significant result: Child poverty, which had been static for decades, fell sharply by almost 8 percent in the following decade.

It's undeniable that moving from welfare to work leads to financial benefits for families. Those who stay dependent indefinitely obviously lose a lifetime of higher earnings. So do those who get a job after being unemployed for just six months or more. They earn up to 15% less in the short run and even more long-term.

Endless unemployment also has significant physical health outcomes, affecting mortality by as much as a year and a half for a 40-year-old worker. It also has substantial mental health impacts. Studies have also found that when mothers formerly dependent on welfare found employment, they saw improvements in their physical health and emotional and psychological well-being.

Welfare reform was a success, yet that policy could be all but permanently overturned by President Biden and congressional Democrats.

That's the reality of the new child "tax credit" (really, welfare grants for people paid through the IRS) included in the American Rescue Plan, passed by Congress and signed by the president in March. This child credit, which used to require work, was transformed into a child allowance for one year. If Congress passes the House's $3.5 trillion reconciliation bill, the child allowance will be essentially made permanent.

If the Biden child tax credit is made permanent, the pre-welfare reform system will be resurrected. The transformed child tax credit sends parents a monthly check regardless of whether they work. It pays about 85 percent of what welfare paid in 1995, yet it also expands the income eligibility, so millions of additional families are receiving it.

Combined with other federal transfer payments, including cash welfare itself, low-income families who don't work can now receive far more than they could have before the '96 reforms. The inevitable result, proven before 1996, will be fewer struggling families striving to rise through employment.

Manchin is right to be worried about irrevocably disconnecting welfare from work. Too many on the left have forgotten that what happens when families don't work, despite the decades of evidence proving how dangerous this view is. We shouldn't return to welfare as we knew it.

COVID tyranny is real. But done right, mask mandates and quarantines aren't despotic

By MICHAEL RYAN
The Kansas City Star

Is it reasonable to quarantine unvaccinated and unmasked students who've been exposed to the COVID-19 virus? You would think so.

Is it legal? It may not be, at least in Kansas. And that would be weird, not to mention foolhardy.

Yet an Olathe law firm's cease-and-desist letter warns the Gardner Edgerton school district that it's illegal under state law to single out unvaccinated students for quarantine.

Talking about someone's "vaccination status" is a bit of a euphemism. "Status" makes it sound like we're talking about one's marital or residency situation. Vaccination status is actually talking about one's ability to spread a very communicable and often deadly disease. Quarantines in the teeth of a deadly pandemic are quite in order. If they're illegal under Kansas law, then Kansas law needs to change.

The COVID-19 delta variant has gone after kids as the original strain rarely did. Not only are many ending up in the hospital, but I've interviewed a nurse who has seen young COVID survivors saying goodbye to parents dying of COVID—forever guilt ridden for having guiltlessly exposed their parents to the virus.

I actually very much appreciate the Kriegshauser Ney Law Group's attempt to hold government officials accountable. And in an actual lawsuit against the Johnson County Commission's school mask mandate on behalf of a family in Blue Valley schools, they're not trying to overturn the mandate so much as to make it better. Attorney Ryan Kriegshauser argues in the case that the county mandate, at some 295 days, is too long and not "narrowly tailored" enough. And that the mandate needs to be automatically up for review periodically as conditions change.

I have no problem with that and neither should Johnson County commissioners, nor any other Kansas City leaders. And it's comforting to know there are some checks on the government's pandemic powers around here. It's frightening, some of the COVID overreach and tyranny around the world.

Fact is, pundits on both the left and right are saying so. The Atlantic, which definitely leans left, warns in a headline this month that "Australia traded away too much liberty" in its fight against COVID. Besides draconian lockdowns and curfews and intrusive contact tracing "sometimes after a single case," the magazine writes, South Australia used a phone app to make sure returning travelers were self-quarantined. If no selfie proof of being home is forthcoming in periodic government checks, the police would be called.

"Up to now one of Earth's freest societies," The Atlantic writes, "Australia has become a hermit continent. How long can a country maintain emergency restrictions on its citizens' lives while still calling itself a liberal democracy?"

In Hong Kong, when a third mourner stopped to honor the site of a pro-democracy protester's death, a waiting cadre of a dozen police officers swooped in to enforce the two-person gathering limit.

In Michigan, the state Supreme Court felt compelled to strike down Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's emergency COVID restrictions last year as an "unlawful delegation of legislative power." And I'll never forget the video of the Ohio woman being tased and dragged from a middle school football game for not wearing a mask—outdoors and socially distanced from strangers.

In Kansas, Kriegshauser teamed up with the Kansas Justice Institute last year to block the Linn County Health Department from demanding—without so much as a warrant—that all businesses turn over lists of all their visitors and patrons. The order was quickly altered to at least allow for warrants.

Meanwhile, leading liberal Bill Maher famously shredded Big Tech, in particular Facebook and Google, for having prohibited posts about the possibility of COVID-19 having emerged from a Wuhan, China laboratory—until they had to admit that it was, indeed, a possibility.

Nor did it calm fears when the Biden administration admitted in July that it was in "regular touch with the social media platforms" in order to flag "problematic posts" about COVID. Sen. Josh Hawley, Republican of Missouri, rightly warned that it represented an "alarming revelation of a public-private partnership to censor the speech of the American people."

And, after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention arrogated to itself the power to prohibit evictions, now President Joe Biden's Labor Department is ordering businesses with 100 or more workers to have them vaccinated or tested weekly. Can they even do that?

So, there are real and ominous threats to civil liberties due to government overreach, well-intended or not.

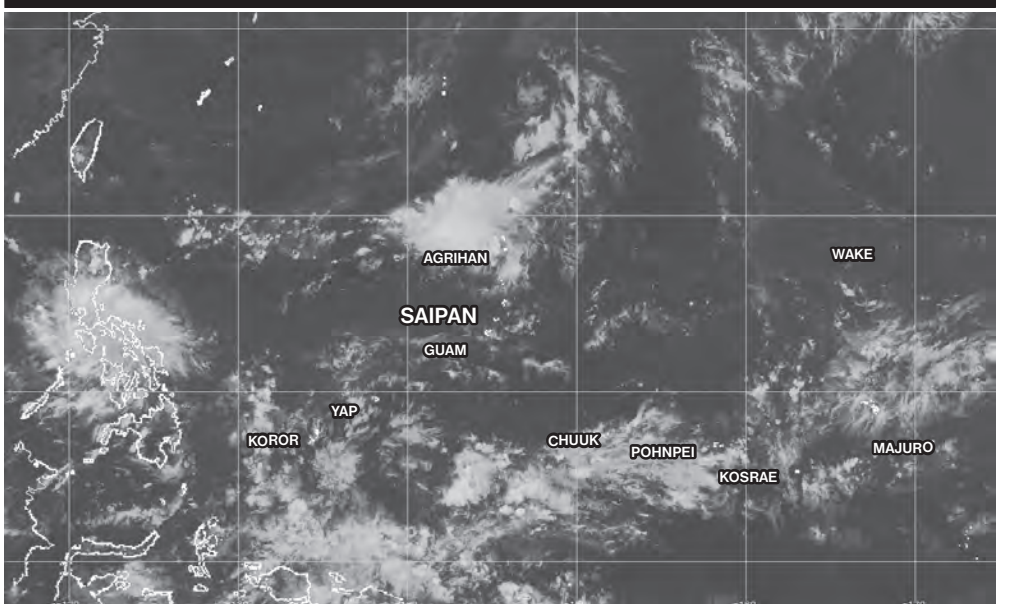
I just don't think quarantining and mask-wearing are among them.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
87º 78º	87º 78º	87º 78º	87º 78º	87º 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:24 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are seen across the Marianas this morning with light south to southeast winds. Seas are running around 3 feet at the Ipan buoy, but satellite altimetry indicates combined seas of 4 to 5 feet which icludes a 3-ft north swell that would not be picked up at Ipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	81 / 87 °F
Palau	Partly sunny	82 / 88 °F
Yap	Morning clouds	78 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Afternoon clouds	80 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	76 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	82 / 87 °F
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	83 / 86 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:12 AM	5:58 PM
Tuesday	-	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	-	6:53 AM	7:12 PM
Thursday	-	7:42 AM	7:48 PM
Friday	-	8:30 AM	8:25 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly sunny	50 / 58 °F
Beijing	Morning clouds	68 / 91 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	78 / 83 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	73 / 83 °F
London	Partly cloudy	62 / 82 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly sunny	60 / 82 °F
Manila	Partly sunny	81 / 92 °F
Melbourne	Mostly sunny	51 / 68 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	79 / 86 °F
New York	Partly sunny	72 / 85 °F
Osaka	Mostly cloudy	76 / 86 °F
Paris	Sunny	58 / 82 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	73 / 87 °F
Rome	Afternoon clouds	66 / 85 °F
Salem	Morning clouds	53 / 74 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	57 / 73 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	65 / 85 °F
Tokyo	Mostly cloudy	77 / 86 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	68 / 89 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:21 AM	Low Tide	0.85
6:41 AM	High Tide	1.90
1:29 PM	Low Tide	0.08
7:53 PM	High Tide	1.92

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	3
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	3
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Party and Beyond Restaurant now open

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

With its eye-catching pastel-colored sign that has everyone curious the past few months, Party and Beyond along Middle Road in Gualo Rai is now ready to satisfy that curiosity and owner Jin Hua Wu is making sure that it lives up to its name.

Party and Beyond, which opened last Saturday, is a two-in-one place that guarantees a unique venue for any party or celebration and a restaurant that serves your island food favorites.

"We welcome everyone to celebrate special occasions with us, whether it is a family affair, for school, office, or any events. Clients can reserve the entire place or just a portion of it. Due to health and safety protocols, we can accommodate 60 people in the venue if they want a private party. Food will be catered by us to ensure food safety," Wu said.

"Another feature of Party and Beyond is that we are also a restaurant that serve Asian cuisine—Chinese, Filipino and Thai food. …We have hotpot and barbecue stove at the table. …We offer lunch buffet from Monday to Sunday, 11am to 2pm, for only $15 for 12 years old and above and $8 for children 5 to 11 years old. …We have different dishes every day that we hope people will try to add variety to their lunch experience," Wu added.

Party and Beyond has spacious, nice interiors and five projectors that will show karaoke songs on the wall that can be sung by anyone who wants to belt out a tune. BEA CABRERA

Aside from giving the community a place for their parties and a restaurant for food cravings, Party and Beyond has karaoke for all. "Five projectors will show karaoke songs on the wall and anybody in the room can go after it. They can sing and others can sing with them. We want to create a happy and fun atmosphere for our customers so we have the karaoke shared by all," Wu said.

According to Wu, in line with making Party and Beyond a family place, future plans include giving discounts to families that dine in. "If you bring your children, you get 10% off and if you bring grandparents or *manam'ko*, we offer 20% off the total bill. This is so because we want to encourage families to be together and spend quality time at Party and Beyond," she said.

Party and Beyond offers unique and photogenic spaces for your special party. BEA CABRERA

For more information, call (670) 488-1199 or Facebook page: Party and Beyond.

Another feature in the pipeline is a "Kid's Playground" beside Play and Beyond. "We understand that when families dine out together, children tend to play and run around so we are putting up a 'Kid's Playground' just next door that will keep children entertained. It is an indoor playground that has a toddler climber slide, fun balls, a maze and other safe play structures that children will enjoy," Wu said.

"Overall, Party and Beyond wants an environment for families to stay, relax, enjoy, and stay close with people you are familiar [with]. That is why our dishes are served in big portions because it is meant to be shared," she added.

Play and Beyond has parking in front and at the back of the building.

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION: PROGRAM AIDE
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10
REPORTS TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:
This is a non-exempt position responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions of the office and its programs. The Program Aide reports to the Executive Director and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
- ✓ At least a High School Diploma or its equivalence including a GED and other similar certificates;
- ✓ Must be proficient in computer usage including but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications;
- ✓ Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license; and
- ✓ Must be able to operate various office equipment including but not limited to telephones, faxes, and copier machines.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] /(670) 287-0652 [message] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Deadline for applications will be on September 30, 2021 at 5pm.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date:	Closing Date:
2021-034	CDBG-DR Loan Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 per annum	Sep 20, 2021	Oct 5, 2021 4:00 PM
2021-028	CDBG-DR Housing Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 per annum	Sep 20, 2021	Oct 5, 2021 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tels: (670) 234-6866
234-9447
234-7689
234-7670
Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

09/09/2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after September 27, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	San Antonio Village, Saipan	$ 1,271,249.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **September 24, 2021, 4:30 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) Tinian Elementary School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	San Jose Village, Tinian	$ 677,503.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

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Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) Marianas High School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	Susupe Village, Saipan	$ 1,240,351.29

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) William S. Reyes Elementary School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan	$ 2,296,875.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Health & Wellness

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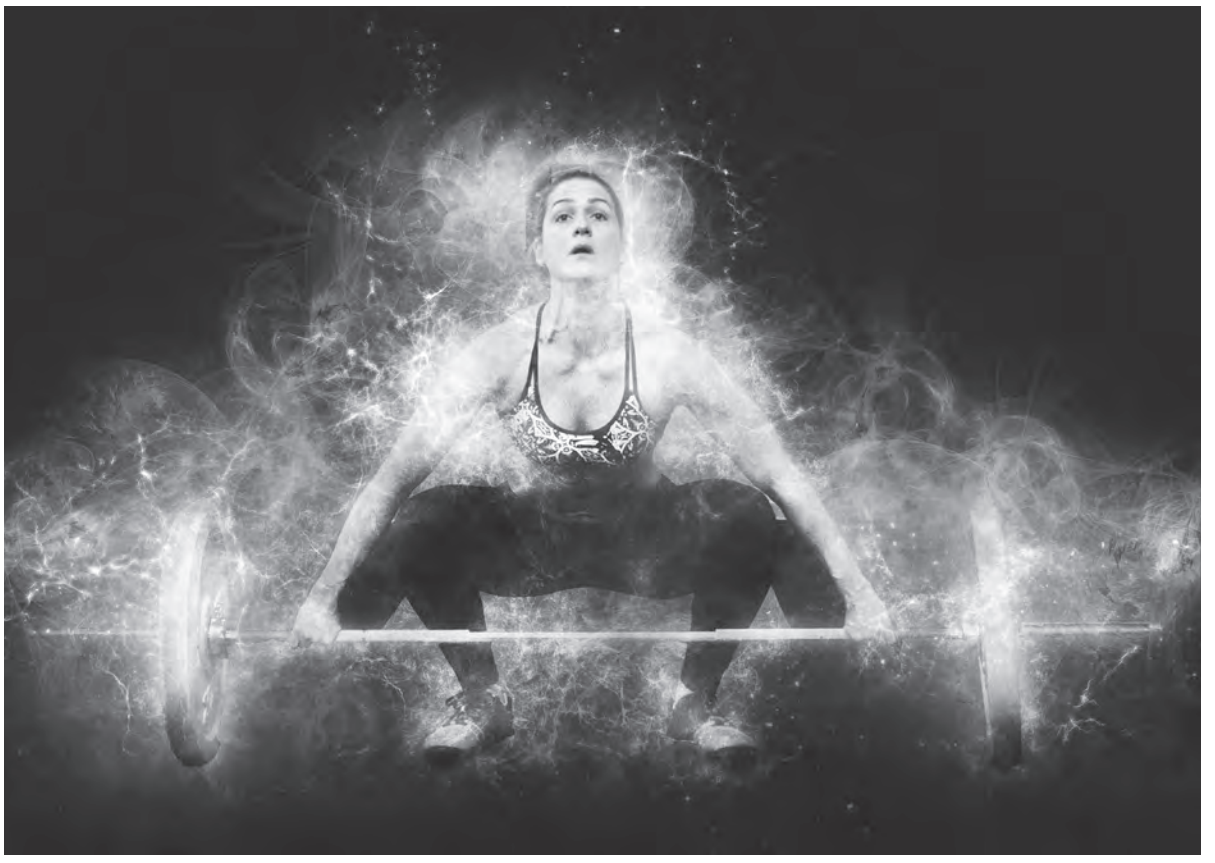

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

Pushing too hard

in the gym could lead to serious condition

By DEEDEE STIEPAN
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

In recent years, there's been an explosion in high-intensity interval training as the new way for people to get fit and lose weight. With that trend has come increased awareness of a rare but serious condition called rhabdomyolysis. That's when muscle cells break down and release a substance into the blood that can lead to kidney failure.

In this Mayo Clinic Minute, Dr. Chad Asplund, a Mayo Clinic sports medicine physician, explains what athletes at any level should know about rhabdomyolysis.

Pushing yourself past your limit during endurance training or performing excessive weightlifting may make you feel a sense of personal accomplishment. However, doing so can lead to a serious condition called rhabdomyolysis.

Typically, in the strength training adaptation phase, you create a little bit of injury to the muscle, but the strength comes from when that muscle heals itself and you recover. Rhabdomyolysis happens when you create more injury to the muscle than your body can adapt to.

And when a muscle is severely damaged, its fibers can break down and leak a protein into the bloodstream that can get stuck in the kidneys.

Rhabdomyolysis can cause kidney failure. It can cause multiorgan system failure. And it can become a big cascade where people can get really, really sick and people can even die from rhabdomyolysis."

Symptoms to look out for include out-of-proportion muscle soreness and dark, brown-colored urine.

Dr. Asplund says to prevent rhabdomyolysis, take a gradual approach to training and listen to your body.

"If you feel like, "I can't do another burpee," then it's probably time to stop rather than continuing to push through because that's what the rest of the class is doing or that's what your inner competitive self wants to do."

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Quinn on Nutrition: Dehydration or heat stroke?

By BARBARA QUINN
MONTEREY HERALD

Summer may be coming to an end but our risk for heat related illness is still very real. I learned that first hand a few weeks ago.

The weather had been hot, but it was not a particularly strenuous day for me. I remember drinking fluids that day, though apparently not enough. That evening while sitting on the porch, I suddenly felt tired, dizzy and confused.

"I'm not feeling well" was the last thing I remember before I passed out for a few seconds. When I came to and against my insistence I was "fine," I was promptly transported to our local emergency room.

Diagnosis: dehydration. After an hour of feeding me IV fluids and electrolytes, I felt much, much better.

According to the Mayo Clinic, dehydration is simply the condition that occurs when we use or lose more fluid than we take in. Deprived of adequate fluids, the body is unable to perform its normal functions, like temperature regulation and blood pressure control. Dehydration is especially dangerous for young children and older adults. (We older folks naturally have a lower volume of fluid in our bodies.)

Heatstroke is considered the most serious of heat-related illnesses, say the experts at Mayo. Like an overheated engine, it occurs when the body temperature rises to 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, usually because of prolonged physical exertion in a hot environment. Other symptoms include nausea and vomiting, rapid breathing, racing heartbeat and headache. Heatstroke requires immediate medical attention to avoid damage to the brain, heart, kidneys and muscles.

Dehydration can contribute to heatstroke and again, those at highest risk are the very young and folks over 65.

What can we do to avoid these conditions? I'm for one going to heed this advice:

Don't get so busy that you forget to drink fluids throughout the day. Keep bottled water in your vehicle and close by, whatever you're doing, inside or out. According to the National Academy of Medicine, women generally need nine (eight-ounce) servings, or 2.2 liters of fluids per day. Men need 13 (eight-ounce) servings, or three liters.

Plain water and other beverages count toward your fluid requirements, including coffee, tea, fruit juice, milk and other beverages. The diuretic effect of caffeine does not offset the fluid we get from these beverages, say experts.

Be very careful about excess alcohol, especially when it's hot or humid outside. Alcohol can interfere with the body's ability to regulate temperature. If you do have that cold beer, balance it out one for one with the same amount of water.

If exercising vigorously for more than an hour, consider beverages that contain electrolytes like potassium and sodium to replenish what you lose. Orange juice, by the way, is a great source of potassium.

Barbara Quinn-Intermill is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at to barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com. ©2021 MediaNews Group, Inc. Visit at monterreyherald.com. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Life & Style

Prosecutor: Jurors conclude Durst heir 'killed them all'

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Robert Durst's long, bizarre and deadly run from the law ended when a Los Angeles County jury convicted him in the murder of his best friend more than 20 years ago.

The 78-year-old New York real estate heir, who was long suspected but never charged in the disappearance of his wife in New York in 1982 and acquitted of murder in the 2001 killing of a neighbor in Texas, was found guilty Friday of the first-degree murder of Susan Berman.

"Bob Durst has been around a lot of years, and he's been able to commit a lot of horrific crimes," Deputy District Attorney John Lewin said outside the Inglewood Courthouse. "Considering what he's done, he got a lot more of a life than he was entitled to."

Durst, who is sick and frail and sat throughout the trial in a wheelchair, was not present when the verdict was read. He was in isolation at a jail because he was exposed to someone with coronavirus, an odd twist on the jury's final day.

The global pandemic significantly altered the course of the trial, suspending it in March 2020 after only two days of testimony. After a 14-month break, possibly the longest in the U.S. legal system, the case resumed in May for four more months of testimony.

Durst

Durst faces a mandatory term of life in prison without parole when sentenced Oct. 18.

The jury found Durst ambushed Berman and killed her because she was a witness to a crime, which prosecutors said was the suspected killing of Kathie Durst, who has never been found. Berman was shot at point-blank range in the back of the head in her Los Angeles home in December 2000.

Berman, the daughter of a Las Vegas mobster, was Durst's longtime confidante who, at the time of her death, was prepared to tell police she provided a phony alibi for him after his wife vanished.

Prosecutors painted a portrait of a rich narcissist who didn't think the laws applied to him and ruthlessly disposed of people who stood in his way. They interlaced evidence of Berman's killing, Kathie Durst's disappearance and the 2001 killing of Morris Black, a tenant in a Texas flophouse where Robert Durst holed up while on the run from New York authorities.

"He killed his wife and then he had to keep killing to cover it up," Lewin said.

Lewin, who met with jurors after the verdict, said they believed prosecutors proved Durst killed Kathie Durst and murdered Berman and Black.

The defense said they believed there was "substantial reasonable doubt" and were disappointed in the verdict, attorney David Chesnoff said. He said Durst would pursue all avenues of appeal.

'New' Van Gogh drawing to go on display in Amsterdam museum

AMSTERDAM (AP)—A drawing newly attributed to Vincent van Gogh that has never been displayed publicly before is going on show at the Amsterdam museum that bears the Dutch master's name.

The "new" Van Gogh, "Study for 'Worn Out,'" from November 1882, is part of a Dutch private collection and was known to only a handful of people, including a few from the Van Gogh Museum.

The owner, who is remaining anonymous, asked the museum to determine if the unsigned drawing is by Van Gogh.

From the style, to the materials used—a thick carpenter's pencil and coarse watercolor paper—it conforms to Van Gogh's Hague drawings, Senior Researcher Teio Meedendorp said Thursday.

There are even traces of damage on the back linking it to the way Van Gogh used wads of starch to attach sheets of paper to drawing boards.

A photographer takes pictures of Study for "Worn Out", a drawing by Dutch master Vincent van Gogh, dated Nov. 1882, on public display for the first time at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021.
AP PHOTO/PETER DEJONG

"It's quite rare for a new work to be attributed to Van Gogh," the museum's director Emilie Gordenker said in a statement. "We're proud to be able to share this early drawing and its story with our visitors."

It comes from a time in the artist's career when he was working to improve his skills as a painter of people and portraits by drawing them. Over and over again.

The museum already owns the almost identical drawing, "Worn Out."

"It was quite clear that they are related," Meedendorp said.

The study has been loaned to the museum and goes on show from Friday through Jan. 2.

Tom Cruise gets sneak preview from SpaceX's 1st private crew

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Tom Cruise got a sneak preview of what it's like to circle Earth in a SpaceX capsule.

Representatives for SpaceX's first privately chartered flight revealed Friday that the actor took part in a call with the four space tourists orbiting more than 360 miles up. Thursday's conversation, like the entire three-day flight, was private and so no details were released.

"Maverick, you can be our wingman anytime," came the announcement from the flight's Twitter feed. Cruise starred as Navy pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell in the 1986 film "Top Gun." A sequel comes out next year.

Last year, NASA confirmed it was in talks with Cruise about visiting the International Space Station for filming. SpaceX would provide the lift, as it does for NASA astronauts, and like it did Wednesday night for the billionaire up there now with his two contest winners and a hospital worker.

Their flight is due to end Saturday night with a splashdown in the Atlantic off the Florida coast.

The four showed off their capsule in a live broadcast Friday. They're flying exceedingly high in the automated capsule, even by NASA standards.

SpaceX got them into a 363-mile (585-kilometer) orbit following Wednesday night's launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. That's 100 miles (160 kilometers) higher than the International Space Station. It's so high that they're completing 15 orbits of Earth daily, compared with 16 for station astronauts.

Until this all-amateur crew, relatively few NASA astronauts had soared that high. The most recent were the shuttle astronauts who worked on the Hubble Space Telescope over multiple flights in the 1990s and 2000s.

Hungry family can't stomach birthday barbecue

DEAR ABBY: I was deeply hurt after going to a barbecue at my oldest daughter's home. It was to celebrate my granddaughter's fourth birthday. My daughter's husband is from Thailand. He barbecued beautiful dishes of shrimp and something that looked like a gigantic crawfish. While my daughter is accustomed to and enjoys this food, she and her husband are aware that I, my husband, her sister and her niece are not accustomed to it. We simply do not like the flavor and texture.

When I asked my daughter if there were any hot dogs they could grill, at least for my 9-year-old granddaughter, she got angry and said she eats what her husband cooks. I felt our part of the family was not even being considered. I was hurt for my youngest daughter and my other granddaughter, who had literally nothing to eat that they would even remotely like. Am I wrong for feeling ignored being invited to a barbecue where my daughter knew all the food being offered were things we wouldn't like?

RUINED MY APPETITE

DEAR RUINED: I do think you are blowing this out of proportion. I assume you have been invited to your daughter's and son-in-law's before, and knew her husband does the cooking. Before coming over, you should have asked if it would be all right to bring a few traditional American dishes with you for the children. If your offer was refused, you could have skipped the barbecue. That said, look at the big picture. It was only one afternoon. I assume the kids were taken out for burgers or hot dogs afterward, and no serious harm was done.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a news nut. Since adolescence I have loved watching the news and staying informed about current events. I also have had a problem since childhood. When I see a person get an injection, I have a physical reaction. I shiver from head to toe. Because of the pandemic, I can no longer watch news broadcasts because they constantly show folks getting vaccinated. Does anyone else have the same reaction? Any suggestions?

SQUEAMISH IN CANADA

DEAR SQUEAMISH: I am sure more people than you think have significant reactions regarding needles. A dear friend of mine must lie down before any procedure involving a needle because she faints. In your case, because news anchors usually announce before commercial breaks what will be featured "right after this important message from our sponsor," take note of it and turn your head, change the channel or leave the TV until the next segment.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: What do you do with a large family picture of yourself, your husband, your son and your daughter-in-law who is no longer your daughter-in-law? She and my son divorced after nine years of marriage. He has since remarried. I don't want to hang the picture, but I don't know what to do with it. Any help would be appreciated.

OUT OF THE PICTURE IN ALABAMA

DEAR OUT: Try this: Reach out to your former daughter-in-law and ask whether she would like to have the picture. If she is interested, offer it to her. If she's not, feel free to toss it.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

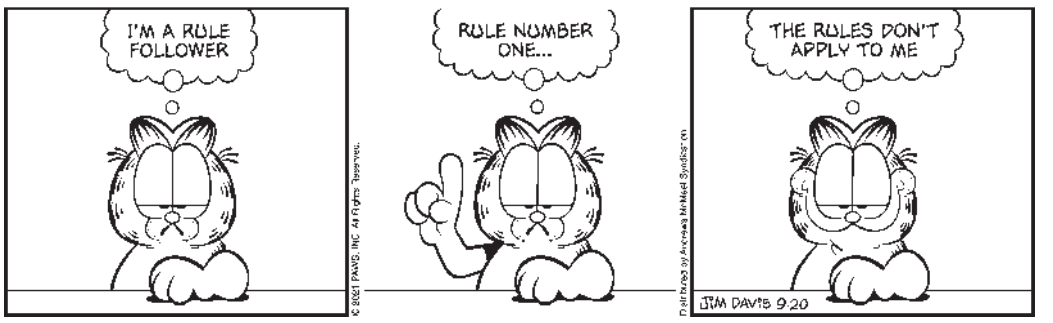
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI, CALVIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BIG IMPORTANT SECRET THINGS! GO AWAY! GET LOST!
ALL RIGHT, DANDELION HEAD! WHO CARES WHAT YOU DO ANYWAY!
WE'RE DOING GREAT THINGS. WE'RE HAVING FUN!
I THOUGHT WE WERE BORED OUT OF OUR SKULLS.
OH HUSH YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY! I HAVE A PACKAGE COMING FROM MY PUBLISHER! I BET IT'S MY NOVEL!
OH, RIGHT! THE MYSTERY NOVEL YOU WROTE!
WOW. IT TOOK SO LONG I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT IT.
YEAH. I THINK ROB DID, TOO.
WHAT'S THAT NOW?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Hey, Bozo, I'm selling cookies. How many boxes ya want?
IF YOU CAN'T ASK NICELY, I WON'T BUY ANY.
I AIN'T GOT ALL DAY, BOZO. HOW MANY?
20 SNICKERDOODLE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Droid
4 Twilight, poetically
9 — Pérignon
12 Gigi's "yes"
13 Spokes
14 — loss
15 Annual theater award
17 Luau bowlful
18 Succor
19 Drank (up)
21 Actor Matthew
24 Emmy winner Falco
25 "Exodus" hero
26 Decade parts (Abbr.)
28 Sandwich order
31 Authentic
33 Feeling down
35 Tend texts
36 "Narnia" lion
38 Chest muscle
40 Moreover
41 "No seats" signs
43 Sticks (to)
45 Rachel of MSNBC
47 British ref. work
48 Green prefix
49 Jon Hamm's "Mad Men" role
54 Plant seeds
55 Composer Edvard
56 Paris pal
57 Bristle
58 Doorway
59 Menagerie

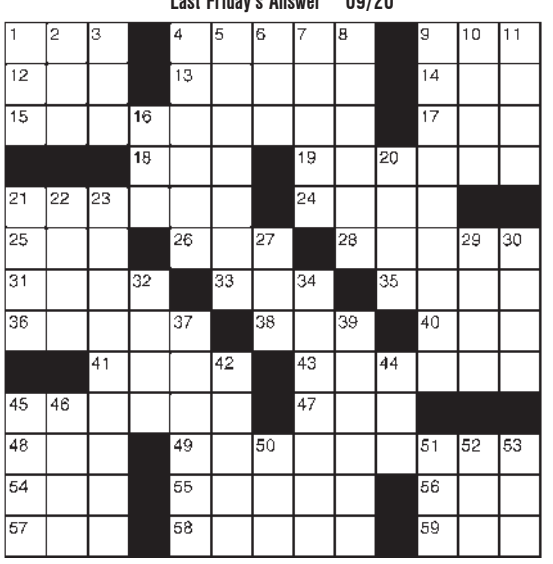
DOWN

1 Physique
2 "— Town"
3 Aunt, in Acapulco
4 Like some old photos
5 Firetruck needs
6 Poetic tribute
7 Bridal path
8 Japanese emperor
9 Well-dressed guy
10 Oklahoma tribe
11 Hotel worker
16 — tai (cocktail)
20 Freshener scent
21 Kate of "The Martian"
22 Raw minerals
23 Reduces
27 Tree fluid
29 Hip-hop's — Yang Twins
30 LAX postings
32 Cooking fat
34 Type of ring
37 Pest
39 Group of priests
42 Under oath
44 Actress Lupino
45 Arizona city
46 Have — (freak out)
50 Petty peeve
51 La —, Bolivia
52 Punk-rock subgenre
53 Brazilian city

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	K	A	■	L	A	G	■	L	E	A	V	E
A	L	G	■	A	P	E	■	I	N	D	I	A
J	I	G	■	S	T	E	P	S	O	V	E	R
A	N	I	■	T	E	S	S	A	■	■	■	■
K	E	E	P	■	S	E	A	■	D	E	W	Y
■	■	■	I	O	T	■	S	I	U	M	P	S
P	A	D	A	R	■	■	■	A	N	I	A	L
O	R	I	N	G	S	■	C	P	A	■	■	■
W	I	N	E	■	W	A	H	■	N	E	H	D
■	■	■	T	A	X	C	S	■	D	U	C	■
O	V	E	R	S	T	E	P	S	■	S	M	U
P	I	E	T	A	■	L	E	T	■	E	B	B
T	A	K	E	R	■	S	S	S	■	L	A	T

Last Friday's Answer 09/20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Phillip Phillips, 31; Kristen Johnston, 54; Gary Cole, 65; Sophia Loren, 87.

Happy Birthday: Use your imagination and be open to suggestions, and you'll find new ways to solve problems. The insight you gain into what others are experiencing will help you understand how best to use your strengths to get your way. Personal improvements don't have to cost a lot. Look for solutions that are cost-efficient. Your numbers are 5, 13, 21, 27, 30, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Transparency will be vital if you want to make a change or do things differently. Once you have a plan in place and the support you need, it will be easy to follow through and reach your goal. Networking will pay off. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Indecisiveness will be your downfall. Do your research, and be prepared to take advantage of an offer you receive. Ask questions and get the lowdown regarding what's doable. Be mindful of competitive situations and misleading people. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Think before you make a move. Refuse to let anyone bully or push you in a direction you don't want to go. Emotional blackmail will lead to mistakes that are difficult to rectify. Use your intelligence, and do what's best for you. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Think about what you want and follow through with your plans. A change you make will fetch compliments and acknowledgment for a job well done. Don't lose sight of your personal goals. Romance will improve your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refuse to let anything limit what you can do or run the show when making decisions is your job. Speak up, and you'll gain respect and receive the information necessary to move forward in a direction that suits your needs. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a unique approach to love, life and personal happiness, and you'll alleviate stress. Distance yourself from the past by embracing what lies ahead. You will discover a path that lifts your spirits and encourages you to follow your heart. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Go the distance. Leave nothing to chance, and control every detail to ensure you get what you want. You can't buy love or respect, but you can earn it by making smart financial decisions. Get busy by doing the work yourself. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Use your imagination, and you'll come up with a plan that encourages others to join in and help you reach your goal. Listen to the input offered, and find a middle ground that will encourage positive change. Limit spending and protect your health. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Think before you act. Choose a path that will help you get your way. If you try to force others to see things the way you do, you will fall short of your goal. Honesty and integrity will play roles when dealing with others. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Conjure up a plan, then proceed. Take a unique route to separate yourself from the competition. A change will enhance the way others respond to you. Choose to take physical action to get things done. Bickering will accomplish nothing. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to the task you are given, and spend less time complaining. Getting along with others and promptly taking care of your responsibilities will be the best ways to get what you want. An unexpected change will throw you off. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take the initiative to show how much you care. Love is in the stars, and your actions will speak louder than words. A kind gesture, show of affection and commitment to something that will add stability to your life are favored. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, trendy and outspoken. You are passionate and responsive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	3	2	8		6	
							5	9
8				6				
4				5				6
5		7	9		1	4		2
2				7				1
				1				3
1	8							
	3		4	9	2	7		

Difficulty Level ★ 9/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	9	1	5	3	4	2	8	7
2	4	8	7	6	9	3	5	1
7	5	3	8	1	2	9	6	4
5	3	9	4	8	7	6	1	2
1	2	6	3	9	5	7	4	8
8	7	4	1	2	6	5	9	3
9	6	7	2	4	1	8	3	5
3	1	5	9	7	8	4	2	6
4	8	2	6	5	3	1	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PERSONAL INVECTIVES AREN'T NICE **Solution: 8 letters**

T	A	R	E	V	I	L	E	M	E	N	T	V	(H)	R
N	H	G	Y	F	I	T	R	O	M	N	T	S	(U)	A
E	O	R	G	B	S	H	A	M	E	A	A	S	(R)	E
T	D	I	E	R	E	Z	A	F	C	R	D	E	(T)	W
A	I	L	T	A	I	L	O	T	B	E	I	R	M	S
I	S	E	V	I	T	E	L	P	X	E	S	P	S	R
L	M	T	I	R	N	E	V	N	P	C	P	E	U	D
I	A	P	E	M	S	O	N	E	E	R	L	D	E	I
M	Y	A	U	S	P	O	M	N	M	T	E	G	O	A
U	T	I	A	D	P	O	S	D	H	I	A	S	H	T
H	D	R	N	E	E	U	L	G	A	R	S	L	S	R
O	A	I	V	J	R	N	U	I	T	A	E	U	R	I
H	A	R	U	E	U	O	T	U	T	D	B	R	A	B
P	E	S	M	C	H	R	O	F	F	E	N	D	H	E
N	C	O	N	T	U	M	E	L	Y	S	M	U	L	C

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Admonition, Aggrieve, Barb, Brash, Censure, Clumsy, Contumely, Deject, Depress, Diatribe, Dismay, Displease, Expletives, Faze, Harass, Harm, Harsh, Humiliate, Hurt, Impolite, Impudent, Injure, Libel, Maltreat, Mean, Mortify, Nerve, Odium, Offend, Oppress, Outrage, Pain, Revilement, Rude, Shame, Slur, Swear, Tactless, Thoughtless, Threaten, Tirade, Upset

Last Friday's Answer: Custom

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Cardinals rally past Padres 3-2 as Machado, Tatis clash

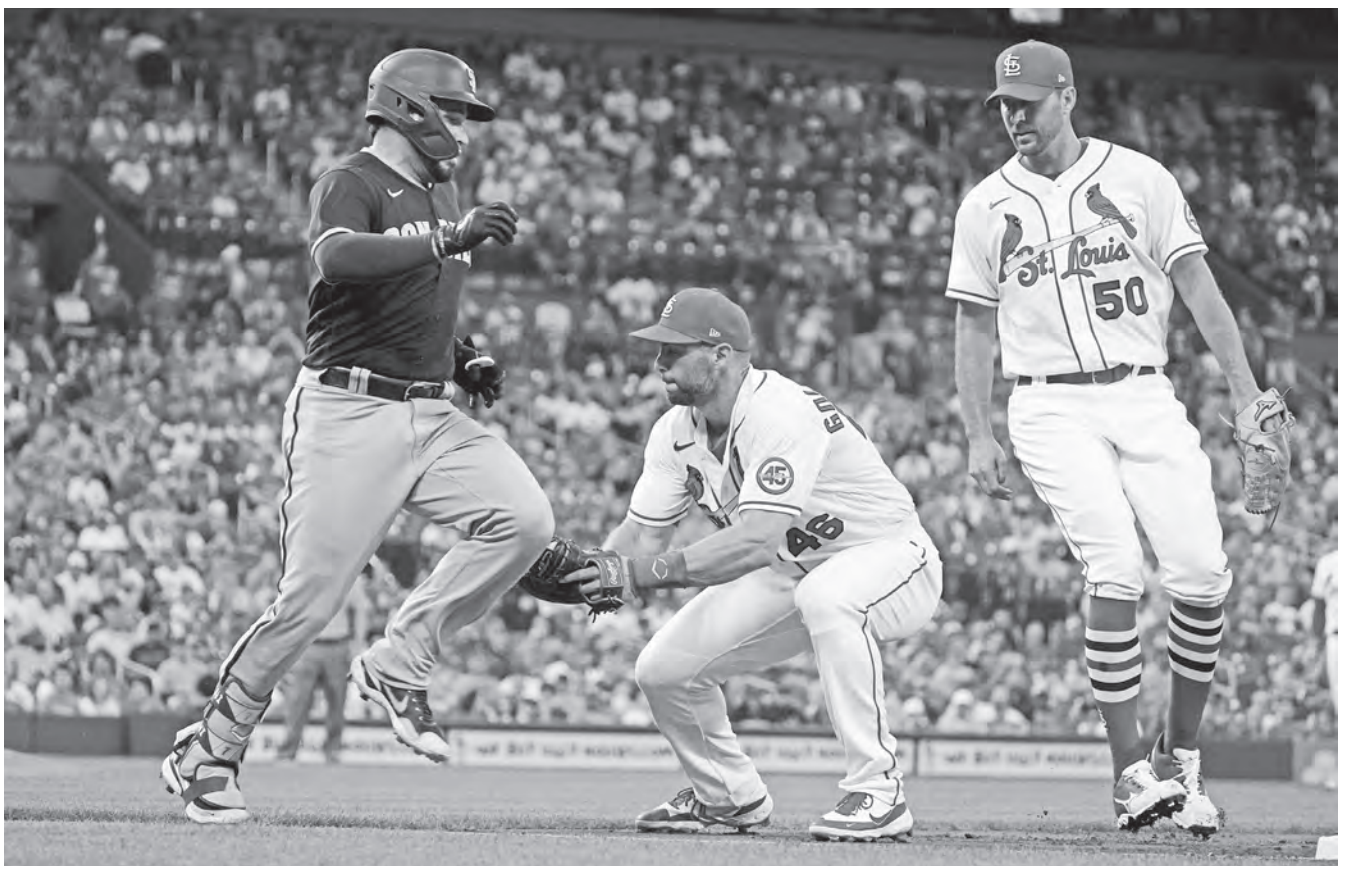
ST. LOUIS (AP)—Tyler O'Neill hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning and the St. Louis Cardinals rallied to beat the Padres 3-2 Saturday night after San Diego stars Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr. had a dugout dustup.

The Cardinals pulled 2 1/2 games ahead of the Padres for the second and final NL wild card, with Cincinnati two games back and Philadelphia also in the picture.

San Diego starter Yu Darvish dominated over seven innings, allowing three hits and striking out nine, but reliever Emilio Pagán (4-2) couldn't get through the eighth.

Machado shouted and cursed at Tatis during a dugout tirade in the fifth. The 29-year-old Machado and 22-year-old Tatis were separated by teammates during the incident, which came at the end of the top of the fifth. They eventually made their way to their positions.

Justin Miller (1-0) earned the win.



San Diego Padres' Victor Caratini, left, is tagged out by St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Paul Goldschmidt as Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright (50) watches during the third inning of a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, in St. Louis. AP

Brewers 6, Cubs 4

In Milwaukee, Manny Piña homered twice, Eduardo Escobar and Jace Peterson also connected, and Milwaukee clinched its fourth straight postseason berth.

The Brewers won for the seventh time in nine games to ensure themselves at least a wild card after San Diego and Cincinnati lost earlier in the day. Milwaukee's magic number to lock up the NL Central title is three over St. Louis.

NL Cy Young Award contender Corbin Burnes allowed three runs and six hits over six innings, striking out 11. The right-hander gave up Ian Happ's 23rd homer with a man on in the fifth.

Devin Williams (8-2) pitched a scoreless eighth and Josh Hader stranded a pair of runners in the ninth for his 33rd save. Scott Effross (2-1) took the loss.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 2

In Toronto, Marcus Semien became the fifth second baseman to hit 40 home runs in a season, and Toronto moved back into a playoff position by beating Minnesota.

Teoscar Hernández hit a three-run homer, Bo Bichette had three hits and two RBIs and the Blue Jays improved to a big league-best 14-3 in September.

Toronto (83-65) moved a half-game ahead of the New York Yankees (83-66) for the second AL wild-card berth, one game behind Boston (85-65).

Semien homered off Bailey Ober (2-3) and joined Rogers Hornsby, Davey Johnson, Ryne Sandberg, and Brian Dozier as the only second basemen to hit 40 home runs in a season.

Steven Matz (13-7) won his fourth straight decision, allowing two runs and three hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Indians 11, Yankees 3

In New York, Catcher Gary Sánchez failed to catch Oscar Mercado's foul popup, leading to a seven-run fifth inning capped by Andrés Giménez's three-run homer.

Franmil Reyes hit an RBI double off Albert Abreu in the fifth and a two-run homer in the sixth against Andrew Heaney.

Yu Cheng put the Indians ahead with a second-inning homer off Luis Gil (1-1) and added a two-run double in the fifth against Abreu. José Ramírez hit his 34th homer in the eighth against Heaney.

Aaron Civale (11-4) pitched six scoreless innings of four-hit ball in his third start since returning from missing over two months with a sprained middle finger on his right hand.

Giants 2, Braves 0

In San Francisco, Curt Casali hit a two-run single in the fourth that held up, Alex Wood made an impressive three-inning return from COVID-19, and San Francisco blanked Atlanta.

Wood struck out four and didn't walk a batter or allow a hit over three scoreless innings, throwing 37 pitches in his first start for San Francisco since Aug. 26. Zack Littell (4-0) relieved and struck out the side in the fourth.

Dominic Leone, San Francisco's sixth reliever, earned his second save as the NL West-leading Giants maintained their two-game lead on the rival Los Angeles Dodgers in the division race.

Atlanta had its NL East lead trimmed to one game after the Phillies beat the Mets.

Charlie Morton (13-6) allowed two runs on four hits with three strikeouts and three walks over five innings. He lost for the first time in nine road starts since June 11 at Miami.

Red Sox 9, Orioles 3

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer off Mike Baumann (1-1) and drove in four runs, carrying Boston to its fourth straight win.

Bobby Dalbec added a two-run double, and Hunter Renfroe and Rafael Devers each drove in a run for Boston. Bogaerts and Devers both had three hits.

Ryan Mountcastle hit his 30th homer, a two-run shot, and Austin Wynns added a solo drive for the Orioles, who lost for the 11th time in the last 12 meetings against the Red Sox after sweeping a season-opening three-game series.

Tanner Houck (1-4) pitched 2 2/3 scoreless innings.

Tigers 4, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Jeimer Candelario hit a three-run homer in the first off Ryan Yarbrough (8-6) and Dustin Garneau went deep in the second. The Rays lead the AL East by 7 1/2 games.

Tigers reliever José Ureña (4-8) allowed one run in 3 1/3 innings, on Ji-Man Choi's double-play grounder. Michael Fulmer got his 10th save by stranding Mike Zunino on second when Brett Phillips struck out and Yandy Díaz grounded into a game-ending double play.

Jordan Luplow homered for the Rays.

Dodgers 5, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Max Scherzer (15-4) allowed two hits in seven shutout innings, struck out seven and lowered his MLB-best ERA to 2.08, improving to 7-0 with a 0.78 ERA in nine starts since Los Angeles acquired him from Washington on July 30.

Kenley Jansen got his 34th save for the Dodgers, who began the day two games behind NL West-leading San Francisco. Cincinnati entered one game behind St. Louis for the second NL wild-card spot.

Sonny Gray (7-8) was the loser as the Dodgers took advantage of two errors by third baseman Mike Moustakas in a three-run fifth that included Gavin Lux's two-run triple.

Athletics 3, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Calif., James Kaprielian pitched two-hit ball over six innings, Matt Olson hit his 36th home run and Oakland beat Los Angeles.

The A's have won four consecutive games and seven of 10 in their race for the second AL wild card. They're two games back of Toronto for the final postseason spot, with the Yankees also in the way.

Kaprielian (8-5) retired 18 of his 20 batters. He struck out five and walked none. Andrew Chafin earned his fifth save despite a shaky ninth.

Jose Suarez (7-8) had a rough start with a three-run first—all on two outs. He gave up six hits and struck out two in 5 2/3 innings.Shohei Ohtani was 2 for 4 with a run, and Rojas had two hits.

Rockies 6, Nationals 0

In Washington, Kyle Freeland (6-8) allowed seven hits and struck out seven over six innings, and Trevor Story hit a three-run homer.

Brendan Rodgers had three hits, including his 14th homer three pitches into the game for a 2-0 Colorado lead.

Patrick Corbin (8-15) gave up his league-leading 35th and 36th home runs. He allowed six runs—five earned—in four innings.

Pirates 6, Marlins 3

In Miami, catcher Nick Fortes homered and singled in his major league debut, Cole Tucker had three hits and Bryse Wilson (3-7) allowed two runs and four hits in five innings as Pittsburgh moved within a win of its first series sweep of the season.

Hoy Park had a two-run triple, and Ke'Bryan Hayes doubled twice for the Pirates, who are last in the NL Central at 56-92 and assured of winning four straight series for the first time this year.

Marlins rookie starter Edward Cabrera (0-2) allowed three runs—two earned—and six hits in four innings and threw two wild pitches, the first allowing a run to score in the first inning.

Rangers 2, White Sox 1

In Arlington, Texas, DJ Peters' pinch-hit single drove in the go-ahead run in the sixth and Texas beat former teammate Lance Lynn (10-5) and AL Central-leading Chicago.

Chicago's magic number over Cleveland to clinch the division remained at five.

Five Texas pitchers combined on a three-hitter in ending a three-game skid. Yasmani Grandal hit his 21st home run in the Chicago sixth.

Drew Anderson (1-1) pitched three relief innings to earn the win, and Joe Barlow worked a perfect ninth for his seventh save in eight opportunities.

Lynn gave up six hits and struck out five in 5 1/3 innings.

Royals 8, Mariners 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Kris Bubic allowed two hits over 6 1/3 innings in his best start this season, and Kansas City stopped a three-game skid and put a dent in Seattle's playoff chances.

Yusei Kikuchi (7-9) dropped to 0-3 in eight starts since winning at Tampa Bay at Aug. 3. He gave up three runs and eight hits, needing 86 pitches to get through three innings, and he threw three wild pitches in the first inning alone.

Seattle lost for the fifth time in seven games and dropped four games behind Toronto for the AL's second wild-card berth with 14 games remaining.

Salvador Perez had a run-scoring single in a four-run eighth, his major league-leading 113th RBI.

Bubic (5-6) allowed one run and two hits in 6 1/3 innings, combining with Domingo Tapia, Josh Staumont and Gabe Speier on a three-hitter.

Phillies 5, Mets 3

In New York, Jean Segura had his first multi-homer game in almost five years and Aaron Nola snapped a nine-start winless streak, leading Philadelphia over New York.

Bryce Harper drove in two runs to help Philadelphia win its fourth in a row and hurt the Mets' flickering playoff hopes. The Phillies closed within one game of Atlanta in the NL East. They are 2 1/2 games in back of St. Louis for the second NL wild-card spot.

The Mets lost their fifth straight and tied a season high by falling five games under .500.

Nola (8-8) allowed four hits and walked one with nine strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings. Ian Kennedy earned his 24th save. Carlos Carrasco (1-3) took the loss.

Dominic Smith had a pinch-hit RBI single and Brandon Nimmo homered for the Mets.

Diamondbacks 6, Astros 4, 10 innings

In Houston, Kole Calhoun knocked in the go-ahead run with an RBI single and Daulton Varsho homered as Arizona scored three runs in the 10th inning.

Calhoun hit an run-scoring single off Yimi García (3-9) and Varsho followed with a two-run homer to center.

J.B. Wendelken (3-2) pitched a perfect ninth for the win as Arizona snapped a four-game skid. Tyler Clippard picked up his sixth save.

Arizona got to Houston starter Lance McCullers, Jr. for three runs in the fourth. McCullers yielded three runs—two earned—on seven hits with eight strikeouts in six innings.

Giants are winless after two games for fifth straight year

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Two games into the season, the New York Giants are in the same unenviable spot as they have been the past four seasons.

They are winless. They are making costly mistakes, and they have a coach—this time Joe Judge—saying the weekly goal is to get better. The assumption is everything will turn around.

History says otherwise. The Giants have not made the playoffs since 2016. They have had four straight losing seasons, and counting the current 0-2 start they have a combined record of 18-48.

It sets up a bleak forecast for the Giants in 2021 with 15 games left in the regular season after Thursday night's crushing 30-29 loss to Washington.

This was a brutal defeat. After missing wide right from 48 yards, Dustin Hopkins got a second chance because of an offside penalty by Dexter Lawrence and kicked a 43-yard field goal on an untimed play to steal the game.

The offside was the last of a number of mistakes that killed the Giants.

New York lost a long Daniel Jones TD run in the second quarter on an iffy downfield holding call. A wide-open Darius Slayton, who caught a TD earlier, could not catch a 43-yard Jones pass in the end zone that would have given New York a 10-point lead with less than seven minutes to play. The Giants had to settle for Graham Gano's fifth field goal after James Bradberry's interception and return gave them the ball at the Washington 20 with 2:16 to play and

New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley (26) breaks away from Washington Football Team cornerback Bobby McCain (20) as he runs with the ball during the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, in Landover, Md. AP

down a point. The offense used 16 seconds and gave Washington a final shot—or two as it turned out.

That's 11 points lost in a one-point game, eight for the Giants and three for Washington.

"Nobody in the locker has lost any steam, lost any desire or hunger," Slayton said Friday. "I think ultimately, things in life don't always show immediate return, but I definitely think that going forward, that stuff will start to show up in wins, and games, and us getting the job done going forward."

It's an attitude the players are embracing.

Speaking to the media for the first time since his penalty, Lawrence initially indicated he felt he was not offside. He later accepted responsibility.

"I can't make that mistake," he said. "I don't want to let my brothers down and let my family down. It's just unfortunate turn of events. So, I mean, the frustration is there on myself, not because of the call or anything like that. I have to be better in that situation."

WHAT'S WORKING

Gano might be the best placekicker in the league right now. He finished last season making 31 of 32 field goals, including his last 30. He added field goals of 23, 47, 52, 55 and 35 in the loss, pushing his streak to 35 and extending his team record.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The pass rush. The Giants have three sacks, two by rookie linebacker Azeez Ojulari, and eight quarterback hits in two games.

Teddy Bridgewater and Taylor Heinicke have combined to hit 62 of 82 passes for 575 yards and four touchdowns. In both games, they had wide-open receivers and a lot of time to throw in hitting almost 76% of their throws.

STOCK UP

Jones. Danny Dimes completed 22 of 32 passes for 249 yards and ran for 95 yards, a team record for a quarterback in the Super Bowl era. He threw a touchdown and probably should have had another on the slightly overthrown pass to Slayton. He also ran for one and should have had another the same way. He showed guts on a night he was sacked four times and hit seven times. No turnovers, too.

STOCK DOWN

For the second week in a row, defensive coordinator Pat Graham is taking the hit. His group was supposed to carry the Giants.

So far, opponents are averaging 28.5 points and none of the points has been cheap. New York's offense only has turned the ball over once and that was in red zone against Denver last Sunday.

Too many opposing receivers are wide open. There is no pressure on the quarterbacks. Here's the worst statistic: After failing to score on its first two possessions, Washington tallied on six of its last nine, including three of four in the fourth quarter.

INJURIES

C-G Nick Gates, who was just elected a captain for the first time, is almost certainly out for the season. He sustained a gruesome broken left leg in the first quarter, playing left guard. Judge said Gates had surgery Friday morning.

The recent time off should allow tight end Evan Engram (calf) to play for the first time when New York plays on Sept. 26.

KEY NUMBER

163—yards the Giants gained rushing. Jones had the big chunk. Saquon Barkley added 57 yards on 13 carries, including a 41-yard dash, that showed a flash of him before the ACL injury. Despite losing Gates early, the O-line played well with Billy Price at center and Ben Bredeson replacing Gates at left guard.

NEXT STEPS

The Giants get roughly nine-plus day to fix things before taking on Atlanta on the 26th, a day the team plans to retire the No. 10 jersey of two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning. The schedule gets tougher after that with games against the Saints, Cowboys and Rams. It has the potential to be another long season.

Analysis: Takeaways can win games, giveaways lose them

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

So it's the day after an NFL game. Or the day before. Or the morning of.

And there are the coaches, reminding players about how damaging giveaways can be and how rewarding takeaways are. Call it the Turnover Topic.

Heading into Week 2 of the schedule, fumbles and interceptions already have played a major role in wins and losses. Just ask Lamar Jackson, Baker Mayfield, Dalvin Cook, Ryan Tannehill, Damien Harris and Trevor Lawrence about their mistakes.

"That ticked me off. I hate fumbles," Jackson said after his bobble in overtime helped Las Vegas to victory. "I hate any type of turnover."

Don't bother bringing it up to the likes of John Harbaugh and other pro coaches. They never stop harping on it.

"We just didn't close the game out when we had the opportunity to do it, three or four times," Ravens coach Harbaugh said. "You know, that is what you need to do. When you have an opportunity to win, you got to go win it, and we just didn't do it tonight."

Nor did the Browns, despite outplaying the Chiefs in Kansas City for much of the opener. Mayfield's pick was the final clinching blow.

"It's critical situations," said Mayfield said. "Those are the moments where you look back and everybody's going to remember that last play and that can be the difference. No matter what has happened previously, you can throw all of that out the window as long as you have a chance and whoever has the ball last, if you can make a play those are the ones that matter."

When turnovers become more than annoying is if they are chronic. Mayfield, despite his advancements, leads the league with 16 fourth-quarter interceptions since 2018.

When Ronald Jones fumbled in the kickoff game last week for Tampa Bay against Dallas, he pretty much disappeared for the rest of the night. The explanation later on from coach Bruce Arians was stark, an inside look at how damaging turnovers can be to a player's psyche.

Pat Kirwan, who has scouted, coached and been an NFL team executive, noticed.

"We don't hear that kind of comment from many coaches," said Kirwan, a SiriusXM NFL Radio host and analyst. "How many coaches have we ever heard say, 'Yeah, he didn't play much after that because he couldn't handle it mentally.' That to me is an indictment of a guy and I think it is a warning sign to the player from the coach: 'We are not going to have much more than that.'

"You start in the tank business on the sideline. ... It is easy to say forget the play and go on to the next player, but if you can't do that emotionally, you won't be there for long. That was so strong a statement about a professional football. It happens, a lot more than people think, but you never hear it. If coaches start to detect that problem they start to lose trust in the player that I can count on you on game day."

Most of the players who were in giving mode in Week 1 won't be benched. They'll be bugged and berated about protecting the ball. If they don't learn, well, then there's a problem that can curtail careers.

On the other side, eager defenders look to rip out the football from the ball carrier. Or jump a route for an interception. There are drills in practice that can be dedicated to exactly that. Nothing makes a defensive player's day more than a strip-sack or a pick or a fumble recovery.

But there's a danger to harping on the negative, according to Browns special teams coordinator Mike Priefer. He saw punter Jamie Gillan drop a snap, then panic late in the loss at Kansas City.

"I don't like to practice failure," Priefer said. "I'm being serious, like a fire call on a field goal. We muff a field goal snap, we talk about it, we might walk through it, but we never want to actually practice that exact situation because to me if you're practicing a dropped snap, you're practicing failure.

"Do we talk about those things? Of course, and we cover the different situations."

Of course, unusual situations always seem to crop up in NFL games. The stats don't always support the circumstances, either.

Consider all those interceptions that go on a quarterback's ledger when a well-thrown ball deflects off a receiver; the Raiders were victimized by that in overtime against Baltimore, only to profit moments later on Jackson's fumble. Also think about bad snaps by centers that go down as giveaways by QBs. Run-pass option plays when it's not clear who is at fault.

Regardless, the turnover arguably (and not very arguably) is the second-most important occurrence behind a touchdown. For defenses, it's a turn-on. For offenses, it's time to turn away in disgust.

At long last, Ballmer, Clippers break ground on new home

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—The design meetings have been going on for years. Technology has evolved throughout the process. Painstaking decisions were made time and time again, right down to what an inch or two difference in leg room between rows would mean or where cupholders should be affixed to the seats.

Finally, Steve Ballmer and the Los Angeles Clippers are ready to build their new home.

The Clippers' long-awaited, $1.8 billion, privately funded arena officially got a name Friday—Intuit Dome, it'll be called when it opens in 2024, the team making that announcement hours before the formal groundbreaking ceremony. The practice facility, team offices for both business and basketball operations, retail space and more will all be on the site.

Ballmer, the team's owner, simply believes it'll be like no other building in the NBA.

"Basketball mecca! Basketball palazzo!" Ballmer, in his usual excitable way, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He might be right.

Every detail—from the huge two-sided halo video screen that will hover over the court, to the triple-wide escalators, to how the bathrooms will be designed to get fans back in their seats as quickly as possible—has a purpose. The halo will include 44,000 square feet of 4K LED lighting, slightly more than one full acre and roughly six times the average size of other "big" screens in NBA buildings. The roof of the dome was designed to accommodate the halo, not the other way around.

Los Angeles Clippers chairman Steve Ballmer speaks during a groundbreaking ceremony of the Intuit Dome, Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, in Inglewood, Calif. The Clippers' long-awaited, $1.8 billion, the privately funded arena is officially named Intuit Dome. AP

Things the Clippers have seen in play at German soccer stadiums, other NBA buildings, NFL stadiums, even the Amazon Go checkout-free convenience stores all sparked various ideas that will be put into play at Intuit Dome.

"They've all led us here, to this vacant lot that we're about to transform to the singular best place for fans and players throughout the world," Ballmer said.

The Clippers currently play at Staples Center, also the home of the Los Angeles Lakers and the NHL's Los Angeles Kings. Ballmer—who originally didn't want to build an arena when he bought the team—wound up beginning to plot a Clippers-only home years ago and formally unveiled the project in 2019, saying then that the Clippers would break ground in 2021 and open in 2024.

So far, even with a pandemic and following some legal challenges, he's right on schedule. The Clippers often felt like tenants at Staples Center, sometimes playing 12:30 p.m. games—which they loathed—because the Lakers or Kings would be playing later that day in the same building.

"We don't want to play in anybody's shadow," Ballmer said.

Soon, they'll have a home of their own, built to what Ballmer says are ideal specifications for basketball and music.

"Today, a construction site but tomorrow, a global destination for basketball fans, music lovers and anyone who's ever been moved to stand with 18,000 voices that echo as one," Clippers President of Business Operations Gillian Zucker said.

Technology will be everywhere, such as some that would allow fans to leave their seat, walk to a concession stand in the concourse, grab a beverage or snack and then—if they do as Ballmer hopes—get right back to their seat. There would be no cashier, nobody to take the order, and the customer's account would be charged automatically. Other than the paying-for-it part, it would be akin to opening the refrigerator at home, getting a drink and going back to the couch.

NMSA

From Page 20

associate members. So we are not the only member within the Oceania family that is not an Olympic member. Maybe everyone has a unique case. We are examining what happened in the late '80s because we did submit an application to IOC and for whatever reason I'm still trying to understand why we were not granted [membership]."

Tan admitted that being granted membership in the IOC will be a difficult and complicated journey, especially since he himself is new at the helm of NMSA.

"The initial findings that I have and I'm not even done yet is we have to go through hundreds of pages. You're talking about communication back to the late '80s and a lot of communication to the early to the late '90s…We are reaching out to different stakeholders like people who were involved and in charge with NMASA at that time. In fact, [we've been] talking to them directly not only reading the communication with their signature on it we're actually finding out from them a lot more [about] what exactly happened because the facts are important," he said.

However, what's clear according to Tan, is to make sure that NMSA will not go at it alone in its application for IOC membership.

"We need to reach out to the people that we know in the region…I've spent sometime within the sporting world to understand that this kind of quest you need a lot of support starting with our region. So as an approach and a strategy, we also need to engage the leadership within the Oceania family and explain to them what happened and hopefully we can also gain their support because they're also part of the IOC family and they can be our biggest champion if we really have a case to really look back on our previous application."

Tan said documents he's seen so far indicate that the CNMI applied for IOC membership before 1996. That was the year IOC changed its bylaws where only nations that are part of the United Nations can become a member of the Olympic family

Cavu, Bainimarama, and Miranda all said the CNMI successfully hosting the Mini Games next year is a step in the right direction as far as its decades-old IOC applications is concerned.

"It's all about collaboration between all the key stakeholders. At the end of the day, it's all about the athletes as well. Have the athletes join the national federations and have their house in order," said Cavu.

For Bainimarama, the Mini Games is the perfect venue for the CNMI to show IOC what it can do as a sporting nation.

"The opportunity to showcase Saipan in the [Mini] Games is also going to help tick the box in your application for IOC membership. All eyes [will be] on Saipan," he said.

Miranda, for his part, said the Mini Games will be a good litmus test for the CNMI and could ultimately help persuade IOC to reconsider the Commonwealth's application.

"Putting this all together, your management and national federations and basically, as Meli, said 'cleaning up your house' and getting all your federations in the same line knowing that you are physically ready to handle all these obligations…. and center your athletes around everyone else because that's the main purpose of sport, which is working with the athletes and putting the athletes in front. You guys have that and put together that with the application they (IOC) see that you're already working to make sure that you're in line with all the visions of the IOC," he said.

Tan assured that he will try his best to move forward the CNMI's application to the OIC.

"This is important enough for our athletes that at least we owe it to them that we do as much as we can. Not to say that we didn't try," he said.

MARSHALL

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sylvania previously triumphed in the April, June, July, and August editions of the race.

In the women's category, Evelyn Pangelinan crossed the finish line in 11:29 seconds followed by Rosemarie Chisato and Ellie Roark. A total of 17 runners took up the challenge of the International Coastal Cleanup Day 5K.

Dela Cruz also paid tribute to Hoskins as Run Saipan's winningest runner was set to leave the island the day after the race, Sept. 19.

"Marshall is an exceptional athlete and will be missed. I'm glad I ran with him one more time in today's race. The man has so much character. On the route of the cleanup today, he managed to pull out one TV and an entire refrigerator from the tree line. Run Saipan wishes him the best and good luck out there."

He added that aside from winning their races left and right, Hoskins has had a tremendous impact on their fledgling running community.

"When Run Saipan was at its infancy he was participating in our runs. He debuted in our Ekiden Relay last February in Brad Ruszala Team with Akiko Miller and Simon Necesito. He shocked everyone as the first leg runner for the relay and totally shredded with a sub-19-minute 5K split. He has pushed all our fastest runners in every race when he shows up which in turns pushes us to train harder. He has an amazing heart. He loves to help out wherever he can and also donate for whatever cause the races are for. We will surely miss him. I love how he can commit to not just running but paddling as well and is a strong team player by just hearing comments from his teammates about his sportsmanship and team ethics on the paddling side," added Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz said the second part of the run that involved picking up trash was also a complete success with the group collecting 30 trash bags totaling 50 lbs of rubbish.

"We do our part as a community to help clean up our environment. Everyone in Run Saipan knows how important ICC Day is and we've been wanting to be a part of it. I'm so happy we were able to do it in partnership with Salty Skin Pacific and their sponsors. Our next environmental-theme race in the near future will be to resurrect the Lao Lao Bay race that has been a dream of our Oceania Athletic Association president/Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general and Run Saipan board member Robin Sapong," he said.

Run Saipan's International Coastal Cleanup Day 5K was held in conjunction with the sports organization's hosting of the second PSS Cross Country Qualifier results of which will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

GCA

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GCA 2's sister team also upped its record to 2-0 after drubbing SSHS 2, 25-4, 25-1, in the third game. The Lady Eagles 1 team is made up of 1 Karina Dilse, Clerrise Dacumos, Katriel Saures, Hye Jin Elliott, Soleil Lamar, Vicky Wang, Mint Karsuaythong, Eunice Pagaduan, and Allyssa Omampo.

SIS 1 kept pace with the two GCA teams, but only after surviving a serious challenge from Kagman High School in the fifth game. The latter shocked the Lady Geckos 1 in the first set, 25-19. SIS 1 woke up in the second set, 25-16, to force a third and deciding rubber set where they prevailed, 15-10. The SIS 1 roster is made up of Francine Asedillo, Aubrey Castro, Audrey Castro, Elizabeth Culp, Cevina Hwang, Julianne Hall, Claire Park, Kaithlyn Chavez, Serin Chung, Euky Claveria, Hyeonbo-Maria Shin, Savita Sikkel, and Tiana Cabrera.

MHS 1 kept pace with the three other undefeated teams after whipping sister team, MHS 3, in the sixth and final game, 25-16, 25-12. The Lady Dolphins 1 squad includes Arisa Custodio, Abigail Decena, Madelleen Narciso, Fatima Monterubio, Julie Ann Capayas, Daejah Benavente, Rizza Relucio, Raina Avelino, Raenna Ramarui, Kalista Klaver, and Kina Rangamar. They are also now 2-0.

Other matches last Thursday saw MCS 2 beat SIS 2, 25-22, 25-21 and MCS 1 escape MHS 2, 25-4, 23-25, 15-8.

In related news, prior of Thursday's matches Public School System athletic program director Nick Gross sent out a memo to everyone watching the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 season to observe the Athletic Program COVID-19 Protocols.

He said all athletic competitions on or off PSS premises are required to adhere to PSS COVID-19 Protocols. As such, the following safety measures must be followed:

- Face masks or shields must be worn at all times by all individuals present, except for those actively participating in the sport.
- Temperature screening must be performed at the entrance of each event for all individuals present.
- A sign-in log for participants and guests must be provided at the time of screening. No one will be permitted to enter without signing in.
- Sanitizers must be available during all events.
- Appropriate sanitizing of sports equipment must occur before and after each event.

Social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained.

"Anyone who fails to comply with the requirements may be asked to leave the event. Additionally, events may be closed to the public (parents/students/community supporters) and/or discontinued entirely in the event that requirements are not met… Please do your part to ensure athletic programs continue safely," said Gross.

Cardinals rally past Padres 3-2 as Machado, Tatis clash PAGE 19

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Sports

At long last, Ballmer, Clippers break ground on new home PAGE 17

NMSA: Olympic quest continues

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

From left, Guam National Olympic Committee board member and sport development officer Joey Miranda III, Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta, Oceania National Olympic Committees officer-in-charge and chief administration officer Meli Cavu, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, and ONOC chief communications officer Inoke Bainimarama during the media conference at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Friday. MARK RABAGO

The CNMI has not given up on its quest to have its athletes take part in the Olympics, according to Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan.

"I don't have anything definite that I can say at this time, but as far as NMSA is concerned it's our ultimate goal and dream to see our athletes to be able to participate in the Olympics just like many of our Oceania brothers and sisters," he said during a media conference with Oceania National Olympic Committees officials at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

ONOC officials were on island to help NMSA and the nine national sports federations involved in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games successfully hold the quadrennial event next year.

Joining Tan in the media briefing explaining the three-day "Management in Sporting Organizations" course under ONOC's Oceania Sports Education Programme last Friday were ONOC officer-in-charge and chief administration officer Meli Cavu, ONOC chief communications officer Inoke Bainimarama, Guam National Olympic Committee board member and sport development officer Joey Miranda III, and Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta.

Tan said the CNMI is not alone in its quest for Olympic membership. In Oceania alone six other island-nations have knocked on the door of the International Olympic Committee—New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk Island, Tahiti, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna.

"We are one of the seven

See NMSA on Page 19

Marshall Hoskins flies in swan song

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., right, poses with Marshall Hoskins after the Run Saipan's International Coastal Cleanup Day 5K last Saturday in Ladder Beach. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marshall Hoskins won his final race on Saipan for the time being after topping Run Saipan's International Coastal Cleanup Day 5K last Saturday on the road leading up to Ladder Beach.

While Run Saipan's timer conked out, Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said Hoskins finished with an unofficial time of 9.12. The time, however, is a bit skewed as runners only ran 2.5 kilometers with the other half dedicated to the cleanup. Wilson Gaul was second and coming in third in the men's category was ageless wonder Chong Nam Lee.

The win in Run Saipan's International Coastal Cleanup Day 5K is Hoskins' fifth victory in the underground series as the 27-year-old from Penn-

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Three Marianas High School 1 players line up at the net during their game against Saipan International School 2 during their NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 season game Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. MARK RABAGO

GCA teams, SIS 1, MHS 1 remain unscathed in HS volleyball

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The two Grace Christian Academy teams, Saipan International School 1, and Marianas High School 1 remain undefeated as the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 season continued Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the first game, GCA 2 got the better of debuting Saipan Southern High School 1, 25-17, 25-12, to raise its win-loss record to 2-0. The Lady Eagles 2 team is made up of Hannah Tenorio, Nieves Villagomez, Annetta Sun, Charrise Camacho, Eunji Hahn, Cassie Regan, Kaydence Gillespie, Taehee Kim, and Chloe Sablan.

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